

# SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE REVIEW ON SOCIAL ENTERPRISE AS POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY DURING PANDEMIC

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**Abstract:** COVID-19 exacerbated global socioeconomic challenges, disproportionately affecting vulnerable populations and boosting poverty rates. This pandemic has hampered the sustainability goal set by the United Nations, which is to be achieved by or before 2030. The current study looked at the available literature on social entrepreneurship plans or strategies for reducing poverty caused by pandemics. The study used Web of Science and Scopus, as well as Emerald Insight, Wiley Online Library, and Google Scholar, to perform a systematic review of high-quality journal databases. Using the PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis), we discovered 21 articles that were connected. A closer look at these papers uncovered several crucial conclusions, including the significance of social enterprises in poverty alleviation during the current pandemic. As the government and private corporations focus on the health system, which is becoming more immobile due to the influx of COVID-19 patients, our analysis indicated that the role of social enterprises in decreasing poverty is critical. The present literature emphasizes how social enterprises manage their social obligations to the community during the COVID-19 pandemic and using a comprehensive review of empirical data. Furthermore, this research generates ideas for future research investigation. The conclusions of this study are important for researchers, professionals, and regulators that work on poverty reduction programs.

**Keywords:** Social Enterprise, Poverty Reduction, Strategy, Pandemic, COVID-19, Systematic literature review

## Introduction

The emergence of COVID-19 aggravated global socioeconomic challenges, disproportionately affecting vulnerable populations and thus increasing poverty rates. The pandemic issue has hampered the sustainability development goal set by the United Nations, which is to be achieved by 2030 (Noviarto & Samputra, 2021). As the conceptual foundation of sustainable development, the Brundtland report proposed the concept of sustainable development in 1987 through the operation of three fundamental pillars, namely social, environmental, and economic. This notion drew international attention and was incorporated into the "UN Millennium Development Goals" in 2000 and the "Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)" in 2015. Because of its contribution to all three key pillars, the current socioeconomic crisis has raised interest in social entrepreneurship and social marketing as enabling tools for achieving sustainable development (Ekren & Şenturk, 2021). One of the goals of sustainable development is to alleviate global poverty. This motivates local and international actors to work hard to promote the sustainable development agenda by implementing positive behavioural changes such as leveraging the unique features of the social economy, sustainable and inclusive economic practices, innovative approaches to social entrepreneurship, and social marketing to address social and environmental challenges. The United Nations provides forums around the world to pursue the common global aim of sustainable development. This conference intends to address global issues that are identified on the SDG list. Among them are the abolition of extreme poverty, the provision of a quality education to all communities, regardless of origin, and the strengthening of international cooperation. This allows for the seamless operation of sustainable development. The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic introduced a new degree of complication to preexisting issues, particularly negatively damaging global health, the economy, and social well-being.

The unexpected development of COVID-19 has resulted in an upsurge in poverty rates all throughout the world. This situation has prompted governments all around the world to build rehabilitation programme to assist those in need. Several corporations, on the other hand, design initiatives to assist the less fortunate. However, more agencies or parties are needed to aid private enterprises and governments with the remaining percentage of poverty, particularly in combating pandemics and reducing the world's hardest poor. As a result, the establishment of non-profit social enterprises is considered an appropriate body to assist in the reduction of poverty rates.

Societal entrepreneurship began as a complex and difficult type of organization, but it has the potential to alleviate growing social problems, particularly poverty rates. Despite disagreements over how to mix social and commercial rewards in an organization, social enterprise is now viewed as a solution to social problems (Braumoh, 2020). However, social enterprises can help to create and deliver effective entrepreneurship programme, particularly those aimed at alleviating poverty (Barie, 2021).

Governments in afflicted countries are adopting a variety of steps to help those who have been harmed by the pandemic outbreak. Despite the fact that the government has assisted those who have been affected, some do not meet the requirements for official assistance (Asare Vitenu-Sackey & Barfi, 2021). This is because they claim that the data accessible to the state government suggests that the recipient's name is most likely not a person qualified

for help. Due to faulty data, this occurrence resulted in a misunderstanding. As a result, private businesses, non-governmental groups, and social enterprises in each province stepped forward to assist the poor, regardless of their background.

According to Asare Vitenu-Sackey & Barfi (2021), as a result of COVID-19's interruptions in demand and supply, this situation has had a relatively diminishing economic impact, leading in a global crisis in which the number of deaths has climbed and businesses have collapsed, causing people to lose their jobs. In this circumstance, social enterprises play a critical role in poverty alleviation operations when government budgets are cut as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Social enterprises must be more concerned about providing acceptable living conditions and ensuring the welfare of their civilizations. Furthermore, as social enterprises, they must play a more active role in their communities to combat poverty.

Despite the fact that systematic literature reviews on poverty alleviation are available during COVID-19, this study fills a gap in the literature by evaluating the systematic assessment of the literature solely devoted to the implementation of poverty alleviation programme through social enterprises. This study evaluates the impact of social enterprises on poverty reduction by utilizing a systematic review to methodically define, select, and analyse appropriate literature. It explains why a thorough inquiry is required and how it will lead the researcher to gaps and potential future directions for the topic of interest. In this study, the following research questions are addressed:

### **1) What role does a social enterprise play in poverty reduction in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic?**

The primary contribution of this study is the use of a systematic literature review to allow for a full analysis and synthesis of all existing information on social entrepreneurship activities to alleviate poverty during the pandemic. This method enables more broad conclusions to be reached regarding the programme conducted by social enterprises to alleviate poverty, as well as more research suggestions for the future. The following sections make up the paper: Section 2 explains the methodology; Section 3 discovers the findings; Section 4 explains the discussions and future research; and Section 5 summarizes the study's conclusion.

## **Research Design**

This section outlines how a Systematic Literature Review (SLR) is carried out, including the retrieval and analysis of literature. Since PRISMA (preferential reporting items for systematic reviews and meta-analyses) statements were widely employed in prior investigations, it was used in this study (Adi Syahid M.A, 2021; Brisson et al., 2020; Pérez-Peña et al., 2021). The SLR procedure is separated into two parts: retrieval of literature and data abstraction and analysis. The literature retrieval part is divided into three stages: i) identification, ii) screening, and iii) review eligibility.

### **Prisma**

PRISMA was used as a guideline in this study during the systematic review. According to Sierra-Correa et al., (2014), the PRISMA has several advantages, including: i) an understandable explanation of research objectives; ii) literature inclusion and exclusion criteria; and iii) extensive database literature searches within a specific time period. As a

result, the PRISMA Statement allows for a comprehensive search of literature on the role of social enterprise in poverty reduction during pandemics, particularly the COVID-19 outbreak.

### Resources

Web of Sciences (WoS) and Scopus which were two significant databases with extensive literature search capabilities were utilized to test PRISMA. Clarivate Analytics has constructed WoS with over 30,000 articles of the most relevant transdisciplinary discoveries over the course of a century. WoS is one of the most popular search engines in the world, and academic libraries commonly use it as a research tool (Li et al., 2017). Scopus, on the other hand, has over 24,600 peer-reviewed journals from over 5,000 publishers, making it the most complete citation literature and peer-reviewed abstract database. Scopus also includes intelligent tools for viewing, evaluating, and tracking literature, making research workflows more efficient and successful. Three more databases were additionally employed in this study namely 1) Wiley Online Library, 2) Emerald Insight, and 3) Google Scholar. Google Scholar can find nearly 90% (roughly 100 million) of all scholarly documents written in English on the Web. According to large-scale longitudinal research, between 40 percent and 60 percent of scientific articles are available in full text via Google Scholar links (Martín-Martín et al., 2014).

### Eligibility and Exclusion Criteria

The inclusion and exclusion criteria are summarized in the PRISMA statement. Only publications that met specific criteria, as listed in Table 1, were allowed to be examined: i) journal papers only because they contain complete reports and mature research (González-Albo & Bordons, 2011); (ii) the use of English documents for data analysis and search; and (iii) papers addressing research concerns about poverty alleviation implemented by social enterprises.

**Table 1: The Eligibility And Exclusion Criteria Item**

Criteria	Inclusion	Exclusion
Literature Type	Journal Articles	Review articles, conference reports, case studies, and chapters in books
Language	English	Non-English
Discipline	Business, Enterprise	Non- business/enterprise
Focus of Study	Poverty Alleviation	Non-poverty alleviation programs
Years	2020,2021	Other than 2020, 2021

### Systematic Review Process

This study employed an integrated systematic review that comprised papers using quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-method methodologies. This method is the best because it provides for a thorough review of the article using a variety of research methods (Jackson et al., 2019). From March 2020 to August 2021, an integrative systematic review was undertaken on the WoS and Scopus databases. The announcement of the Movement Control Order (MCO) in March 2020 is the rationale for the choice of March 2020 as the start of the time period of the study. In addition, three extra databases, Wiley Online Library, Emerald Insight, and Google Scholar, are used to obtain a more thorough analysis based on all available high-quality literature.

The systematic review is divided into four stages. Prior studies, online thesaurus, and experts were used to select suitable keywords related to social enterprises in poverty alleviation during pandemics. The databases' comprehensive capabilities aided in prioritizing and customizing specific phrases above the others inside search regions such as abstract, title, and keywords. The keywords and search strings for each of the five databases are listed in Table 2.

**Table 2: Keywords and Search Strings**

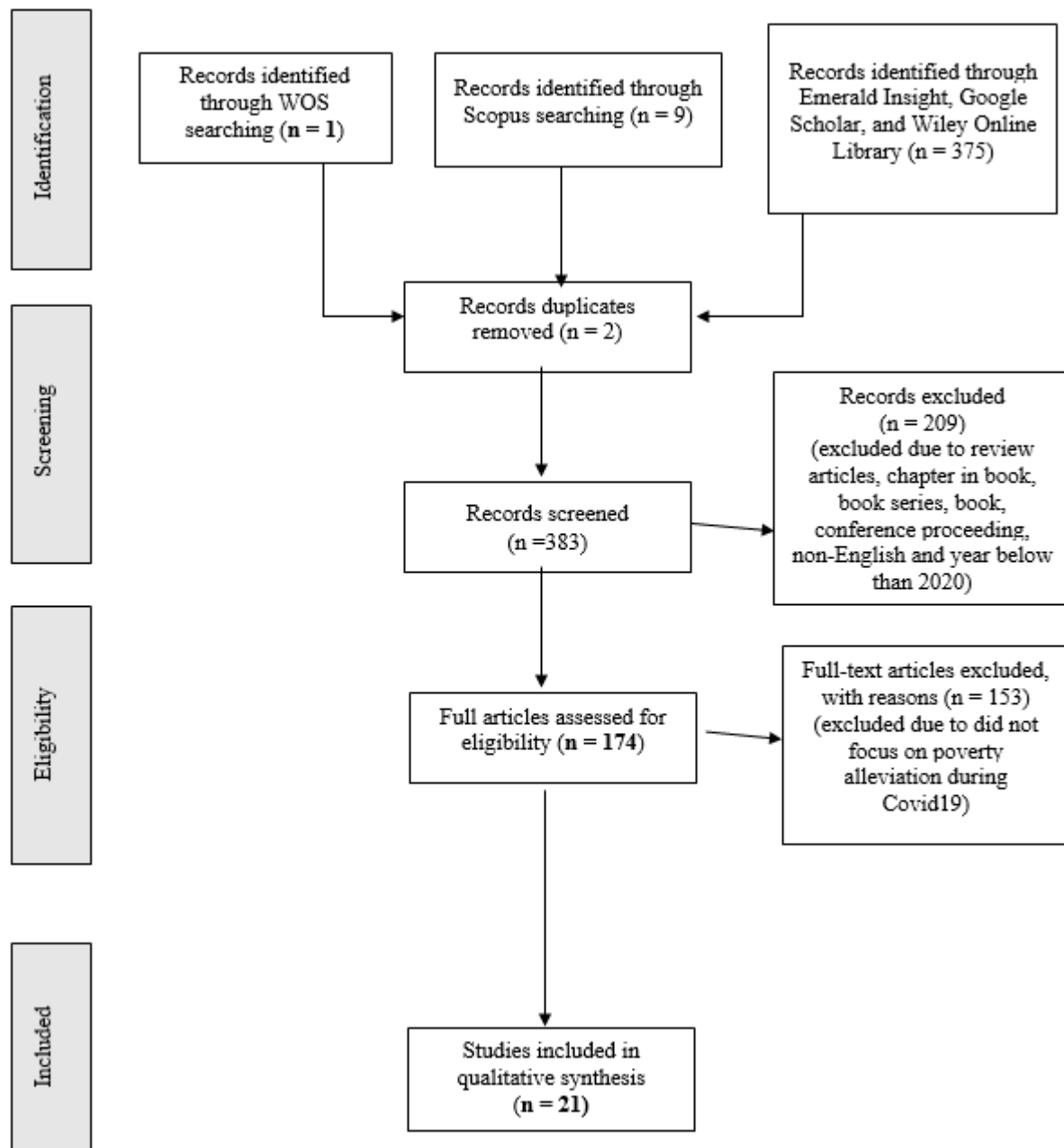
Journal Database	Search String	Frequency of Hits
WoS	ALL=((("social enterprise" OR "enterprise*" NOT "government") AND ("poverty reduction" OR "poverty alleviation" OR "poverty") AND ("strateg*" OR "program*" OR "plan") AND ("pandemic" OR "COVID" NOT "endemic"))	1
Scopus	TITLE-ABS-KEY (("social enterprise*" OR "enterprise*" ) AND ( "poverty reduction" OR "poverty alleviation" OR "poverty" ) AND ( "Strateg*" OR "program*" OR "plan*" ) AND ( "Pandemic" OR "COVID-19" ) )	9
Wiley Online Library	"poverty" anywhere and "Social enterprise" in Abstract and "covid" in Abstract	4
Emerald Insight	Social Enterprise AND (title:"Poverty Reduction") OR (abstract:"Strategy") AND (title:"Pandemic")	156
Google Scholar	"Social enterprises", "poverty reduction", "pandemic"	215

The investigation found a large number of articles using a search string in two primary databases (Emerald Insight and Google Scholar) and three supporting databases (Scopus, Wiley Online Library, and WoS), as shown in Table 2. As a result, 385 manuscripts were found. Following the screening procedure, two duplicate papers were eliminated, and a total of 209 manuscripts were rejected. 153 manuscripts were rejected at the eligibility stage because they were unrelated to the topic of the study. Finally, because these papers focused on poverty alleviation during COVID-19, only 21 publications were available for the final analysis. The PRISMA flow diagram depicted the process of selecting articles (please see Figure 1).

### Data Abstraction and Analysis

For data abstraction and interpretation, 21 articles were chosen. The 21 articles were summarized using descriptive analysis and the research questions were answered using content analysis. The abstracts of the selected papers were evaluated before the entire manuscript was examined. Finally, raw data pertinent to the study's problems was gathered and recorded.





**Figure 1: The Flow Diagrams**

Source: Moher, Liberati, Tetzlaff, and Altman (2009)

## Results

This section presents descriptive statistics and studies on the role of social entrepreneurship techniques in poverty alleviation during pandemics.

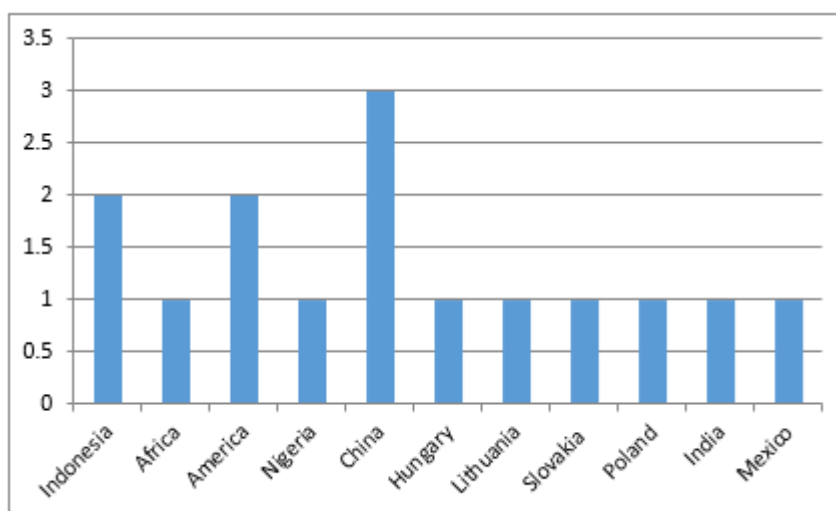
### Descriptive Statistics

The 21 papers examined were published between 2020 and 2021. The distribution of 21 articles published across 21 publications demonstrates that the subject of social enterprises poverty alleviation during pandemic has been addressed in certain journals. As demonstrated in Table 3, the ranking of journals (the top six) with the greatest impact factors occurs with a single publication.

**Table 3: Name of Journal with Impact and Number of Articles**

Name of Journal	Impact Factor	Number of Articles
Journal of Business Research	7.38	1
Sustainability	3.48	1
International Journal of Islamic and Middle Eastern Finance and Management	2.68	1
Feminist Economics	1.82	1
Public Administration and Policy	1.28	1
Journal of Public Affairs	1.21	1

In each selected study, the writers conduct research on social enterprise responsibility during the pandemic in their particular nation. Figure 2 displays the nations that are involved in poverty eradication initiatives, as well as the number of publications published during the COVID-19 pandemic.



**Figure 2: Countries Engaging in Poverty Eradication Efforts and The Number of Papers Published**

Figure 2 depicts the nations involved in the 21 selected publications. China has the most papers in the selection of systematic literature reviews, with three, while Indonesia and America have up to two articles each and the rest have only one. The analysis also determined which of the 21 papers received the most citations, as seen in Table 4, which shows the three publications with the most citations over the course of their publication. These articles are distinctly focused on poverty issues, particularly the role of social entrepreneurs in the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Table 4: Most Cited Articles**

Author (year)	Article Title	Journal	Number of Citations	Subject
He & Harris, (2020)	MSME's sustainable economic behavior for struggling poverty: Agency theory vs. bounded rationality theory	Journal of Business Research	529	Poverty, SMEs
Asare Vitenu-Sackey & Barfi, (2021)	The Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on the Global Economy: Emphasis on Poverty Alleviation and Economic Growth	The Economics and Finance Letters	12	COVID-19, Poverty
Aidukaite et al. (2021)	Social policy in the face of a global pandemic: Policy responses to the COVID-19 crisis in Central and Eastern Europe	Social Policy & Administration	6	Social policy, COVID-19

### COVID-19 and Poverty

The United Nations (UN) has included poverty alleviation as one of its Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), which guide national efforts toward global poverty eradication. It is now widely acknowledged that global poverty and the sheer number of unhappy individuals on the planet are increasing over time, with the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbating the problem. Sustainability is a broad notion that encompasses a variety of features, particularly in terms of complementing and interconnected economic, environmental, and social issues. It is described as "the result of a rising understanding of the global links between expanding environmental concerns, socioeconomic challenges such as poverty and inequality, and long-term health implications for humanity" (Hopwood et al., 2005).

Since the occurrence of the pandemic nowadays, the globe has confronted a slew of alarming issues, and conventional solutions have fallen short, particularly in light of the rising global poverty rate. Every country requires a new solution that brings together the finest of the charity, for-profit, and government sectors in order to design large-scale, long-term transformation for the poorest of the folk or community. As a result, social entrepreneurship is one of the answers for reducing global poverty. In an era of shrinking public budgets, adding the word "social" to entrepreneurship is generally seen as innovative because it includes applying commercial concepts while dealing with complex human issues (Quarter, et al. 2017).

According to the World Bank, 9.1 percent to 9.4 percent of the world's population would be living on less than \$1.90 per day in 2020, a condition known as critical poverty. To eradicate poverty, particularly in developing countries, stakeholders, as well as commercial



organization, play an important role and have significant responsibility for displaying compassion toward this cause (Sumanasiri, 2021). The arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic drew attention to poverty alleviation, which has since become a focus for many governments, particularly those in developing countries. The United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda highlights businesses' immense potential to address sustainability-related concerns such as poverty reduction. The agenda also emphasizes the need of public-private cooperation in addressing global poverty concerns.

COVID-19's negative effects on numerous industries around the world have been exacerbated by the inability to conduct business, including tourism (people are unwilling to travel to avoid the spread of the disease), small enterprises, and, shockingly, huge organizations. Social entrepreneurs, on the other hand, see this as an opportunity to help a community in need of financial support and other fundamental necessities. In the following section, the authors explore the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and ways to assist the poor. Furthermore, the current study investigates earlier studies on the forms of assistance provided to the poor and needy.

### COVID-19's Consequences

The pandemic's emergence has had a number of consequences for numerous parties, including the state, public corporations, private companies, and even individuals. This includes mental health due to the curfew rule, which puts into force in March 2020 (notification of a government-issued movement control order over the world). During the COVID-19 pandemic, Lee et al. (2021) looked at the moderating effect of a mentor-ship agenda on the link between parental carelessness and depression among teenagers from low-income homes in South Korea. According on the research, the Korea Development Bank Foundation, a charitable and non-profit organization, has chosen 264 people from different parts of South Korea for a mentor-ship programme. As a result of the program, students from low-income homes were found to have a relationship between neglect and despair. The mentor-ship program's success reduced the association between low-income participants' neglect and depression (Lee et al., 2021). As a result, formal visits by social workers, professional advocates, or volunteers to low-income families may be effective in reducing depression among low-income pupils. In addition to harassment, the mentor-ship programme revealed that the member was having financial issues. Thus, financial donations from social enterprises may be beneficial in reducing the harm done to low-income teenagers' quality of life and psychological well-being, particularly in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to the global response to the spread of COVID-19, international travel and business operations are being curtailed. As a result, global poverty has increased and economic growth has slowed. This pandemic has also resulted in additional problems around the world, such as increased unemployment and financial challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic would further impoverish this vulnerable group while also worsening the situation of individuals who are already poor (Hooper & Uhomoibhi, 2020). Furthermore, increased joblessness and poverty as a result of nationwide lock-downs that prioritized physical well-being (but also imposed physical isolation) resulted in significant economic inequalities and unjustified occupation losses, putting an increasing number of people in financial and psychological distress (Hooper & Uhomoibhi, 2020; Lebow, 2020).

Throughout the pandemic, not only locals were impacted, but so were others, such as migrant labourers earning a living in the people's country. Migrant labourers' necessities went unfulfilled for the most of the lockdown. Many perished as a result of violence, starvation, lack of income, debts, and substantial psychological and physiological stress, all of which went largely undetected by policymakers (Ray & Subramanian, 2020). Because they wished to return home and be safe, migrant workers were considered as troublemakers to the state that they live. This disaster and crisis brought to light the fragile situation of poverty and lack of resilience in this group of people, as well as their marginalization by policymakers (Gupta & Sengupta, 2021).

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted local and global food supply networks worldwide (López-Santos et al., 2020). The pandemic can serve as a model for issues such as food insecurity and ultra-processed foods, both of which have an influence on people's health and well-being. The circumstance that has resulted in this pandemic should urge us to think further as we confront more difficulties in the future, especially poverty and other elements that may cause global instability.

### **The Role of Social Enterprise in Poverty Alleviation**

Social enterprises are distinct from regular firms that are just focused with profit. Social enterprises are characterized differently in different locations. According to H Chen et al., (2020), in the United States and Hong Kong, social enterprises are defined as businesses that strive to achieve specific social goals in a commercial manner. Meanwhile, in Europe, a social enterprise is defined as a non-profit hybrid organization (one that has both an economic and a social emphasis). Furthermore, in Taiwan, a social enterprise is defined as any approach or action that seeks money to achieve a social goal. Social enterprises will progressively distribute their predetermined profits to themselves, so contributing to society in a visible or surprising way (H. Chen et al., 2020).

In Bangladesh, social entrepreneurship is playing an essential role in poverty eradication (Karim, 2019). Social enterprises provide jobs for semi-skilled and unskilled workers in both rural and urban areas of the country. Besides, according to M. Chen et al. (2021), informal employment helps to alleviate unemployment and poverty by providing job options for rural migrants who are unable to find official jobs in cities and for unemployed urban. Social enterprises help disadvantaged people improved their standard of living while also relieving extreme poverty. According to a British Council Bangladesh survey conducted in 2016, 30% of respondents stated that the goals of social enterprises in Bangladesh are to create jobs and promote education. According to the study conducted by Karim (2019), 69 percent of social entrepreneurs are under the age of 35. This demonstrates that Bangladeshi teenagers genuinely want to get out of poverty and continue to thrive in their life. Social enterprises differ from typical businesses in that they target specific social and economic challenges in order to maximize the welfare of the masses. Social enterprises contribute to the reduction of economic disparities through the equitable distribution of wealth. Profits are earned solely to sustain the existence and growth of the business. Donations, grants, and charity provide the majority of the start-up money for social enterprises. In Bangladesh, there are various success stories of social companies. As a result, Bangladesh may concentrate on social enterprise growth in order to create jobs and alleviate extreme poverty. This framework can serve as a model for reducing poverty in other countries.

Financial donations, volunteering, collective action, advocacy, grassroots and direct giving and assisting, as well as novel approaches such as crowd funding and hybrid philanthropic activities, are all part of social enterprises' plans and strategies around the world (Kumi, 2021). For example, Hossein (2020) investigated on how social enterprise operated in North America. One of the social enterprises namely Warden Woods Community Centre (WWCC) who is dedicated to reduce poverty and the facility primarily serves those who are financially insecure. WWCC provides more than fifty programme to vulnerable populations, dispersed throughout nine offices in the city's east end, and serves roughly 6,000 people each year. Moreover, in Ghana, Kumi (2021) discovered that one of the social enterprises namely Mastercard Foundation had launched the Young Africa Works Initiative in 2019 with an initial investment of USD 200 million. The purpose of this initiative was creating jobs through digital technologies. This has the potential to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs of no poverty (SDG 1), decent work, and economic growth (SDG 8).

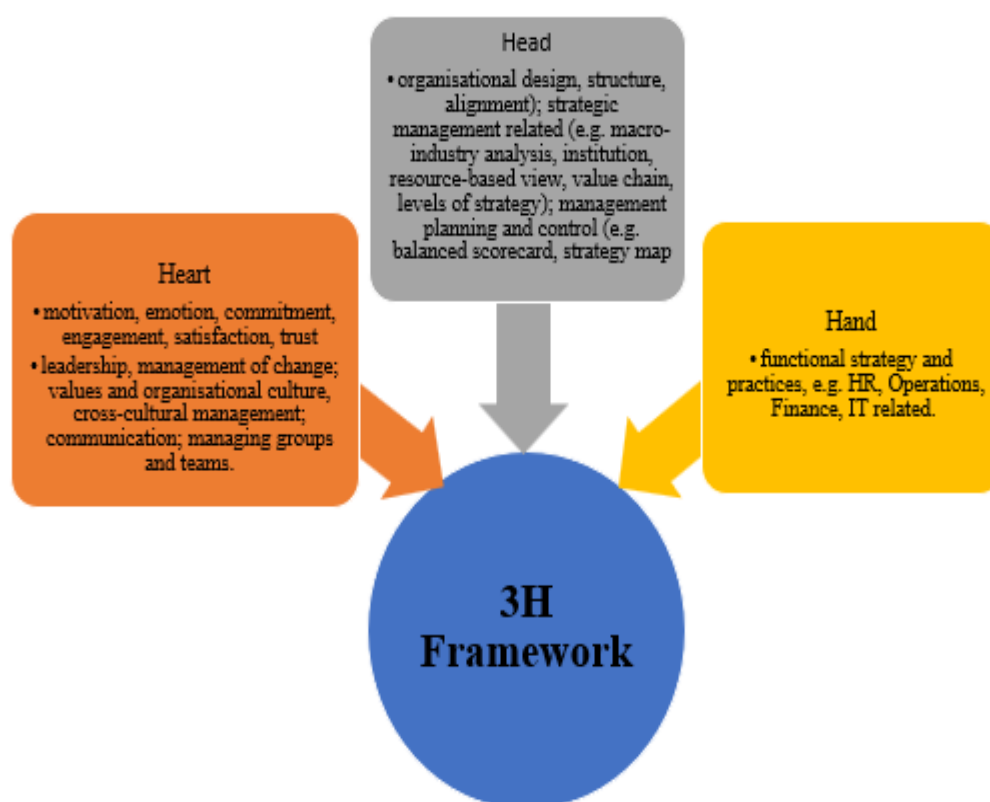
Another program in Ghana which discovered by Kumi (2021) regarding social enterprises was through social media and crowd funding platforms to assists in mitigating poverty. Among them are Global Donating, Go FundMe, and Just Giving. This kind of programs such as advancements in technology and digital platforms has provided a vehicle for mobilizing cross-border giving. While this is still a new phenomenon in Ghana, a number of social entrepreneurs are using platforms that allow consumers to donate directly to them. This makes it easier to give many types of assistance, especially to the poor (Kumi, 2021).

Each country has its own strategy for combating rising poverty rates. Because covid-19 has resulted in increased poverty, the China government has decided to focus on eradicating the disease first. According to Yu (2021), one approach has been used in China to limit COVID-19 situations, with an embryonic framework - 3H (Heart-Head-Hand) framework - to theorize about China's strategy in addressing the corona virus pandemic. Countries that fail to follow the 3H domains' assumed principles have far more infected cases and deaths (Yu, 2021). The 3H framework is a newly designed approach for holistically handling critical human and organizational/national concerns. The metaphorical representations of Heart, Head, and Hand represent the framework's key domains. Its goal is to create a comprehensive approach to managing people as well as national and organizational concerns. Figure 3 depicts the operation of 3H in China.

Based on the repercussions of the pandemic those have been discussed previously, a study by Barie (2021) found that there is a system of emergency food during pandemics that is adapted to the demands of the current and next wave of pandemics by social enterprises in America. Apart from the jobs provided by social enterprises to alleviate poverty in a community, food security is another option to assist the poor in meeting their nutritional needs. To fulfil the needs of unsafe food in the community, LSS (Lutheran Social Services) Food Pantries runs food pantry facilities in 13 counties in Ohio (state in the Midwestern region of the United States), six distribution centres, and mobile food pantries. Receivers are connected to a variety of social programme that assist people overcome poverty, homelessness, domestic violence, and mental health issues, in addition to food safety guarantee (Barie, 2021).

In addition to the food safety assurances mentioned above, Islamic social financing (ISF) institutions such as zakat, infaq, and waqf could help the government and economy recover

from the pandemic catastrophe (Ascarya, 2021). In this circumstances, social enterprises could save lives by providing health check support, medical supply, and save households by creating a social safety net through zakat, infaq, and waqf (Ascarya, 2021). In addition to that, while the majority of the economy and finance are struggling during the Covid-19 health and economic crisis, Islamic social finance (ISF) in Indonesia, particularly zakat, infaq, and waqf, has become increasingly important in assisting those who are impacted. ISF is a subset of Islamic economics and finance (IEF), which encompasses zakat, infaq, waqf, social Islamic microfinance, and various sorts of sadaqah (Islamic voluntary gifts). Through the concepts of charity, zakat, infaq, and waqf, funds obtained by social enterprises will be contributed to the needy community, particularly the underprivileged. Zakat was suggested as a short-term emergency support scheme that could help the economy recover during and after the Covid-19 crisis (Alam, 2020; Haji-Othman et al., 2020).



**Figure 3: 3H Framework**

Other characteristics of social programme, such as the degree to which they alleviate inequality and poverty, differ as well (Aidukaite et al., 2021). Social enterprises are becoming increasingly significant in the fight against energy poverty. As a result of market and government failures, increasing focus is being placed on social entrepreneurs to alleviate energy poverty (Kumar & Tiwary, 2020). Social companies act as honest brokers between communities and technology, developing new social interactions and modifying social structures to help underprivileged communities to embrace and use greener energy solutions. The COVID-19 pandemic is a fantastic opportunity for businesses to progress toward more comprehensive and real corporate social responsibilities while also addressing major global

social and environmental issues (He & Harris, 2020). The global COVID-19 pandemic has shown substantial inequalities in income, health, education, and other areas. Working together, regular businesses and social enterprises will benefit both parties because existing firms will always deliver reasonable advantages to society. As a result, commercial firms should treat social enterprises with greater respect and understanding, forming alliances, creating synergies, and driving social development over time. These measures will improve the public's view of social companies, attracting additional skills and technologies and, to some extent, increasing their contribution.

Rather of developing and pursuing new solutions, it may be more practical to transfer current and sustainable solutions that may be tweaked and applied to other plans or projects (Klaus & Rennefeld, 2020). Peredo & Chrisman (2006) offered a technique for poverty reduction in which the entire community is transformed into an entrepreneur and enterprise. A community-based firm contributes to rural poverty alleviation by utilizing local knowledge, culture, resources, capacity, and innovation (Goel & Karri, 2019). In community-based organizations, natural and social capital is closely tied to economic issues (Peredo & Chrisman, 2006). Not only social enterprises, but also private businesses and the government itself, can plan something about this strategy by allowing the poor to start their own businesses in order to excrete from poverty.

### Discussion and Future Research

Social enterprises are separate from traditional businesses that are just concerned with profit. In many parts of the world, social enterprises are defined differently. Social enterprises are businesses that aim to fulfil certain social goals in a commercial setting (H. Chen et al., 2020). Social enterprises will gradually allocate their predetermined profits to themselves, thereby contributing to society in an obvious or unexpected way (H. Chen et al., 2020).

According to a poll conducted by the British Council Bangladesh in 2016, 30% of respondents claimed that the goals of social enterprises in Bangladesh are to create jobs and promote education. Karim (2019) stated that 69 percent of social entrepreneurs are under the age of 35 and it varies from traditional corporations in that it focuses on specific social and economic issues in order to maximize the welfare of the population. Donations, grants, and charity provide the majority of the start-up money for social enterprises and the fund growth in order to create jobs and alleviate extreme poverty.

A comprehensive search of current literature utilizing five academic databases (Web of Science, Scopus, Wiley Online, Emerald, and Google Scholar) yielded just twenty-one (21) relevant publications. Nonetheless, the study raised a few major problems. In general, the current study focused on the function of social enterprises in alleviating poverty during a pandemic. One research question is acknowledged in the current study: the role of social enterprises in poverty alleviation during the COVID-19 outbreak. Based on traditional reviews, some studies have indicated which programme match with the community to relieve poverty.

The findings contribute an idea for future research. Research on the function of social enterprises in reducing poverty during pandemics is still minimal, with only twenty-one (21) publications published to date. As a result, more research on this topic is required; future



research should focus on meta-analysis, a quantitative technique for confirming the program's efficacy in combating and eliminating poverty during a pandemic.

## Conclusion

The significant growth in Covid19 instances has resulted in an increase in poverty rates all around the world. This situation has prompted governments all around the world to build rehabilitation programme to assist those in need. Several firms, on the other hand, design programme to assist the less fortunate. The current study looked into the literature on social entrepreneurship programme or solutions for decreasing poverty caused by pandemics. A systematic review of high-quality journal databases, such as Web of Science and Scopus, as well as certain other databases, such as Emerald Insight, Google Scholar, and Wiley Online Library, was used to identify 21 scholars using the PRISMA approach. A thorough examination of these papers revealed some important findings, particularly on the significance of social enterprises in poverty alleviation during the present pandemic

## Contribution

The current study explored the literature on social entrepreneurship techniques or plans for addressing pandemic-related poverty. The social entrepreneurship manager is essential in organizing the programme or plans that directly combat the pandemic's effects on poverty. This study aids managers in developing more charity initiatives to support under served communities and fulfil their corporate social responsibilities. To assist the underprivileged in coping with the pandemic's consequences, they might be able to enhance current programme or perhaps create new ones based on those from other nations that state in the study (job opportunity, promote education, 3H Framework)

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