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Female Social Entrepreneurship in Sport, in the African Context: Systemic Review

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Denise Kamyuka

Female social entrepreneurship in sport, in the African context: systemic review

Abstract

Social entrepreneurship is distinctively characterized by the creation of value for products or services that meet the chronic needs of a society and provide benefits for the community (Pathak & Muralidharan, 2017; Luke and Chu 2013; Ratten, 2019). Social entrepreneurship in sports (SES) has recently gained traction in sport management literature, as sport shares social entrepreneurship's promise of providing a social good while realizing the potential for financial gain (Bjärsholm, 2017). Numerous authors have called for new theories in sport management, including theories around SES (Misener and Misener, 2017).

In response to this call, this systemic review focuses on synthesizing research around female social entrepreneurship in sport, within the African context. The need for this review stems from authors' notions that unlike typical sport for development and peace models (SDP), SES has the ability to overcome the neoliberal power dynamics that often tarnish SDP efforts in Africa (McSweeney, 2020; Rivera-Santos et al., 2015). Research disseminated by the University of New Hampshire lists African countries as countries that would benefit the most from social entrepreneurship, particularly in efforts to alleviate, poverty, health and education opportunities (Drew et al., 2020). Social entrepreneurship is lauded for recognizing opportunities in disadvantaged communities, (Pathak and Muralidharan, 2017) and using local resources to establish sustainable solutions (Peredo & Chrisman, 2006; Crisan & Borza, 2012), making it the ideal model for low to middle-income African countries.

As part of the local resources, female social entrepreneurs remain an under research topic in SES studies, yet there is a need to isolate studies for females. Mueller et al., 2011 specifically point out that entrepreneurship is predominantly viewed as masculine, and that this view assumes a definition of success and failure that is particular to western masculine hegemonic practices. Gilligan (1982) however, identifies the moral development of females to include a propensity for community centered philanthropy, affirming Calas et al. (2009) call for feminists to study how communities can operate as social entrepreneurs or enterprises.

This review will be conducted to answer the broad question of what literature and information exist regarding female social entrepreneurs in sport (in the African context) and the enterprises they operate. The search strategy for this review will include electronic databases for business and sport, reference lists and grey literature. The working inclusion criteria will comprise of social entrepreneurship, sports, female entrepreneurs and Africa. The methodology and reporting will follow the PRISMA checklist.