Social Entrepreneurship in Lebanon and its impact on social, environmental, and cultural level. This abstract will serve to highlight why social enterprises are so important for Lebanon's future development, and how these social start-ups can have a positive impact on various levels in the country.

Abstract:

Although the term social entrepreneurship is considered new, social enterprises existed since a long time.
Social enterprises aim to develop, fund, and implement solutions to cultural, social, or environmental issue. An example of a successful social entreprise in Lebanon is 'Foundation Diane'. This social entreprise aims to grow an eco-sustainable development community in order to highlight the importance of the environment in social and economic development.
This topic is crucial and having more start-ups that aim to develop and improve our country is very essential.
It is becoming even more important due to the massive social demands in the Arab world, especially in Lebanon, in addition to the evolving competencies of the entrepreneurs and all the adjustments that can be done on various levels.
Why are social enterprises important for Lebanon?
As a Lebanese woman born and raised in Beirut, coming from a third world country, that has experienced wars, injustice, and corruption, I always felt empathy and the urge to help others in any way possible. Many resilient and hardworking Lebanese, have the desire to implement their ideas to create solutions in the country, but many obstacles stopped their ambitions. The concept of social entrepreneurs matters to Lebanon because the country has a lot of problems, and there is a lot to solve but sadly, the Lebanese government does not do much.
"Poverty in Lebanon has drastically increased over the past year, now affecting about 74% of the total". Public institutions need a lot of work, and the international support can help less than the half of the population. Most of the infrastructure is damaged, brain drain is increasing year after year.
Therefore, in the last couple of years, some social start-ups were launched, creating a positive impact on social, economic, and environmental level through providing jobs to many individuals, shelters to hundreds of families and solutions to environmental issues.
Despite the positive impact of social enterprises on the country, the problems were not solved. The citizens wanted an end to the government and its corrupted system.
In 2019, a revolution took place in Lebanon, and with the government failure, the country went collapsing and is on the edge of going bankrupt. Thus, many people lost their jobs, enterprises went bankrupt, the percentage of poverty surely increased, the emigration boosted, the citizens were suffering from uncertainty.
Today, Lebanon needs all possible help to get out of the challenging situation. Hard working and changemaking social entrepreneurs are needed to invest their ideas and time to create the best start-ups that will help the country to flourish again.
Social enterprises like l'Artisan du Liban who supported more than 1000 artisans across the Lebanese territory and saved several crafts from extinction, Fabric Aid (second hand clothes collector and distributor, offering decent quality clothing at affordable prices to the underprivileged), and many others helped establish new job opportunities, find shelters for many families and work on the environmental challenges faced by the region.
The positive impact of these start-ups motivated the ambitious thinkers, changemakers to invest their skills and create new social enterprises that can have a major influence on the country.
Today, start-ups and entrepreneurs are working on meeting the growing demands for CSR (corporate social responsibility) and social entrepreneurship through integrating sustainable platforms that have a major impact socially and environmentally.
However, social enterprises face many challenges, and their implementation will take time but can make a significant change in the region.

Biography:

Sandy HAIDAR is a business operations manager at international structure and building Consultancy. Sandy is a polyglot with a master's degree in business analysis and consulting from IESEG school of management in Paris, A Nano Degree in Digital marketing and a Bachelor of Science from the Lebanese American University. She is a member of Global Shapers, an initiative of the World Economic Forum, with a mission to build a global community of outstanding young people committed to improving the stare of the world.

Sandy grew up in a beautiful city in a small chaotic country called Lebanon. A country that taught her tolerance and resilience. In 2016, as a young entrepreneur, she worked on different strategies at her family business specialised in publishing books to increase their profit and market share all around the MENA region. She worked in different countries, environments and with individuals from different cultures.

As an Arab woman who Left her comfort zone and moved to Paris at a very young age, Sandy learned real independency. She discovered that there is no such thing as 'perfect', how important being real, open, and empathetic is, and how much a sense of belonging can make a difference in everything.

Sandy find herself most accomplished by two things: building and empowering. By building a solution to a problem, a mission, a strategy, or simply a message. And empowering others to be the best version of themselves and realize their own potential by asking them the questions that will propel them to think creatively.

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