



# Social Innovation in HE

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# Overview

- Social innovation globally:
  - Higher Education's role in promoting social innovation
- Social Innovation in Higher Education (SIHE) research findings:
  - Across Asia
- The Social Innovation & Knowledge Exchange Network (SILKEN)
- Concept of HEIs as 'Anchor Institutions'



# Social Innovation Globally

- Social innovation can be defined as *'changes in the cultural, normative or regulative structures [or classes] of the society which enhance its collective power resources and improve its economic and social performance'* (Heiscale, 2007:59).
- Globally, social innovation is growing rapidly.
  - [SI Drive](#) seeks to map social innovations globally
- Provides a new mechanism for empowering the disenfranchised & solving social problems.



- **21<sup>st</sup> Century Higher Education Institutions** need to be more than just research & teaching focused institutions:
  - Support the **local economy**
  - **Influence policy** locally, nationally and globally
  - Contribute towards the 2030 **Sustainable Development Goals**
  - **Co-create** with communities, businesses & practitioners
- Social innovation presents universities with an opportunity to leverage their resources in a post-Covid world to drive **sustainable growth & impact**.
- HEI impact is now being recognised in **global impact rankings**:
  - [Times Higher Impact Rankings](#)

# SIHE Research

1

- **In-depth Literature Review**
- Explore global & local literature in relation to SI

2

- **Online Survey (n = 253) (Indonesia = 55)**
- Capture data from SI academics working in HE across the 5 countries

3

- **Interviews & Focus Groups (n = 193) (Indonesia = 29)**
- Explore perceptions of multi-stakeholder groups on the SI ecosystem

4

- **Ecosystem Mapping**
- Map SI research, teaching & knowledge exchange across East & SE Asia

5

- **Triangulation of Data**
- Triangulation of Stages 1-4 data into cohesive analytical discussion on SI

6

- **Develop Recommendations**
- Prepare recommendations for improving SI engagement in HE

- Many positives related to the research base on SI:
  - **growth:** a total of 351 publications focused on social innovation were identified across the 5 countries:
    - No. publications increasing over time (+54% per year)
    - **Indonesian (academic publications = +79% / year; non-academic publications = +30% / year).**
- A number of barriers to SI research:
  - **funding:** lack of institutional funding for SI research, with significant proportions of non-funded/self-funded research (Vietnam = 66%; Malaysia = 48%; **Indonesia = 46%**; South Korea = 32%; Philippines = 21%)
  - **impact:** there remains limited applied research and a lack of recognition amongst HEIs (and funding bodies) of research impact

**Key takeaway: research needs to be more applied, with greater market relevance to attract funding & deliver impact.**

- Teaching on SI is also one with positive outcomes:
  - **growth:** 311 modules/courses focused on social innovation were identified across the 5 countries:
    - SI teaching gives students communication skills, empathy, problem-solving, and analytical thinking
    - No. modules/courses increasing over time (+31% per year)
  - **real-world impact:** *‘I think universities and academic institutions really have responsibility to making sure that whatever they teach is relevant to the real world.’* (Filipino academic)
- A number of barriers to SI teaching exist:
  - **quality:** curriculum quality is often poor, with accreditation processes within HEIs limiting innovation
  - **relevance:** remains limited engagement between academics & practitioners. Students learning needs to be experiential & place-based.

**Key takeaway: teaching needs to be embedded in the real problems of society & the economy.**

# Community Engagement

- HEIs are engaging with communities:
  - **impact:** 251 SI related community engagements across the 5 countries:
    - academics engage as board members, volunteers or officers (especially NGOs, schools and social enterprises)
  - **collaborators:** main collaborations are with NGOs, schools & public bodies
    - **Indonesia = 35%**; Malaysia = 74%; Philippines = 62%; South Korea = 50%; Vietnam = 75%
- A number of barriers to community engagement:
  - **HEI support:** lack of institutional support for community engagement, with most collaborations being informal & pushed by academics themselves:
    - Concept of ‘**academic bricoleurs**’ driving these collaborations

**Key takeaway: Institutional ties with communities need to be strengthened; communities to inform support agendas.**



# Social Innovation Hexagon



*Universities should achieve **ALL** of these six outcome pillars where possible*

**Universities can & should be anchor institutions!**

# SIL KEN

## Social Innovation Linkages for **Knowledge Exchange** Network

Strategic partners and collaborators



...helping universities to become *anchor institutions*

Thank you  
for listening

Any questions?

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