



Project Proposal for Ph.D.

Project Details	
Project Title	Assessing the Impact of Policy Changes on Social Enterprises in India
Project Summary (Minimum 500 and maximum 2000 characters)	Introduction: In recent years, social enterprises (SEs) have emerged as key players in addressing social challenges while operating within a business framework. India, with its diverse social and economic landscape, has seen a surge in SEs, particularly since 2010. This proposal aims to conduct a longitudinal study to analyze the impact of policy changes, notably the 2013 CSR Act, on the growth, scalability, and societal impact of SEs in India. Background: SEs, distinct from commercial enterprises, prioritize social impact alongside financial sustainability. With innovative business models, SEs cater to underserved markets, contributing significantly to social development. In India, where public policies often face challenges in reaching all segments of the population, SEs play a complementary role by addressing last-mile issues. Policy Context: Since 2010, the Indian government has introduced several policies aimed at promoting SEs and enhancing their impact. These include encouragement of public-private partnerships, government-backed venture funds, setting up of the SEBI alternative funds scheme and the 2013 CSR Act, mandating corporate contributions to social responsibility. These policy changes have facilitated the growth and sustainability of SEs, leading to their rapid proliferation, especially in sectors like education, healthcare, energy, and sanitation. Objectives: This interdisciplinary project seeks to achieve the following objectives: Study Changing Business Models: Analyze the evolution of business models among established SEs in response to technological advancements and as a consequence of policy changes. Assess Scalability: Evaluate the scalability of SE business models, particularly considering the impact of policy interventions since 2010. Measure Societal Impact: Investigate the determinants of societal impact generated by SEs and assess the influence of policy changes in enhancing social outcomes. Methodology: The project will employ a longitudinal study approach, drawing on tools for assessing policy impact and theories of entrepreneurship. The methodology will involve gathering quantitative data on SEs' financial performance, growth trajectories, and societal impact over the past decade. Further, examining the provisions and implementation of key policies, such as the 2013 CSR Act, and their implications for SEs. The study will also conduct in-depth case studies of select SEs along with textual analysis to understand their response to policy changes, business model adaptations, and social impact generation. Finally, engaging with SE founders, policymakers, investors, and beneficiaries to gain insights into the practical implications of policy interventions.

Conclusion:
By examining the impact of policy changes on SEs in India, this project aims to contribute to the understanding of the role of SEs in social development and the effectiveness of policy interventions in fostering their growth and impact. Through rigorous research and stakeholder engagement, the project seeks to inform evidence-based policymaking and promote the sustainability and scalability of SE initiatives in India.

Ph.D. Supervisors

Role	Name of Faculty	Academic Unit in IITD/Institute/University	Email ID (Official)
Supervisor 1	Prof. Suma Athreye	SoPP	suma@iitd.ac.in
Supervisor 2	Prof. Sanjay Dhir	DMS	sanjaydhir@dms.iitd.ac.in

Project requirements (Student qualifications, experience required, etc)
***The candidate will be shortlisted based on common shortlisting criteria decided by ScRC (SIRe)**

- MBA, MA equivalent with knowledge of both quantitative and qualitative methodologies
- 60% through the career

Source of fellowship/funding
(CSIR/UGC/DBT/ICMR/ICAR/NEET-PG/DST-INSPIRE/IRD/FITT Project details, if any)

Institute fellowship/ Project fellowship

Role of Faculty Members involved:	
Supervisor-1	To provide academic guidance and practical support from the inception of the project to the submission of the thesis.
Supervisor-2	To provide academic guidance and practical support from the inception of the project to the submission of the thesis.