

Prof. Dr. Mine M. AFACAN FINDIKLI¹

She has worked in various positions in the service industry for nearly ten years. Along with her private sector duties, she stepped into academic life as a part-time lecturer at Boğaziçi Uni, Yıldız Technical Uni. and ITU Tourism and Hotel Management Vocational Schools between 2005-2009. Meanwhile, she completed her graduate (2007), and doctoral (2012) education in the field of Business Administration focusing on Management & Organization, HRM, and **OB.** Expanding her doctoral thesis scope, she conducted her research with the support of the PERYÖN Association and published her first book, "Business Values and Reflections on Professional Life", in 2013. The other single-authored books have been titled (2020) Business Ecosystems, and (2021) "Does the word fly? From Psychological Contracts to Personal Contracts". She has been also a co-editor of "Creating Social Value Through Social Entrepreneurship" book. In 2020, she has conducted her academic studies at the University of

^{*}Prof. Dr., İstinye Üniversity, Dean of FEASS, Business Dept, mine.findikli@istinye.edu.tr

BATH for six mounts. Since 2010 she conducts her studies and writes articles within the scope of HRM, OB, and Social Entrepreneurship.

Currently, she is the Dean of FEASS, Head of the Department of Business Administration, and Head of the Graduate School of Business Administration at Istinye University.

Social Entrepreneurs: The Ethical Leaders And Drivers Of Sustainable Development

Prof. Dr. Mine M. AFACAN FINDIKLI²

It is widely known that all the behaviors of individuals as well as organizations exhibit in society affect our societal environment in terms of their consequences. The basis of our actions is derived from the values that shape our perspective on life. Based on the values and assumptions morality and ethical understandings emerge, and actions, strategies, or policies are shaped. Starting from individuals, groups, organizations, and communities rise, grow, and mature on these values, as well as moral systems and relationships are shaped. However, the pressure of change and transformation processes that today's VUCA and BANI world create new problems and challenges for the business organizations and their management.

Especially in today's business world, where Sustainable Development goals are the focus in every channel, businesses cannot claim that their only responsibility is to increase their profits. On the one hand, they have to keep up with the changes in the external environment, market conditions, and ensure their profitability for their sustainability, while on the other hand, it is an increasing obligation to fulfill their responsibilities towards society. However, it is not easy to serve sustainable development goals as a responsible

^{*}Prof. Dr., İstinye Üniversity, Dean of FEASS, Business Dept, mine.findikli@istinye.edu.tr

corporate citizen and concurrently to satisfy shareholders. It may well be remembered that, in the second week of September 2015, media outlets around the world reported on the Volkswagen Group's emissions scandal.

When we evaluate this case from the perspective of sustainability and business ethics, we can conclude that Volkswagen Group only aimed to increase their market share and profits with regards to utilitarian ethical approach. To prevent such unethical corporate scandals and to increase their reputation in the eyes of the public, it can be argued that business organisations focus on corporate governance practices. The high number of independent members in the board of directors is also an important tool for this self-assessment of businesses. From this perspective, I believe that there is a crucial resource to help businesses engage in more effective projects in line with sustainable development goals (SDGs) and to better understand local needs: Social Entrepreneurs.

For the wellbeing of both the social and ecological environment, social entrepreneurs produce faster and more effective, inclusive, and sustainable solutions to the needs of local and minority groups. The way they do business and the way they manage groups are consistent with ethical leadership behaviors. Ethical leaders are guided by morality and justice in their interactions and act as role models for society. In the work environment, ethical leaders support their colleagues' participation in decisions and provide autonomy in their projects. They pursue their projects focusing on the responsible management. By creating an ethical organizational climate, ethical leaders invest in social capital and develop trust, loyalty, and a sense of belonging among work groups.

ISSN: 2582-8304

Social entrepreneurs act like ethical leaders in their practices and stakeholder interactions through social impact-oriented projects with inclusive, people- and nature-friendly business models. At the same time, their project management skills are highly developed. When businesses carry out projects with social entrepreneurs, one of their external stakeholders, they can both carry out social responsibility projects effectively and in a way that creates widespread social benefit and become a valuable financial resource for social entrepreneurs' projects. By bringing these two important actors together, the SDGs can be effectively served, and our world can become socially and ecologically healthier.

According to World Economic Report (Jun 28,2021) entitled "How collaborations with social entrepreneurs are helping to make the SDGs a reality?", social innovators are tackling some of the world's greatest threats – and by working more collaboratively, are shifting the entire landscape of the social change sector. Based on the report it is understood that while the COVID-19 pandemic has modified many of society's norms, it has also delivered some unexpected benefits. The way in which social innovators work with communities, governments, funders, and each other has undergone a rapid paradigm shift, with results that might not have been achievable in the same timescale at any other period in our history. Due to the nature of their work, social entrepreneurs aligning with the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals, they can forge successful networks to enable social Collective impact. Moreover, they show that systems can be changed.

Focusing on creating change and social impact within the framework of Sustainable Development Goals, social entrepreneurs

turn negativities into opportunities and give hope that we can live safely in this world. They give us hope that every individual can be an "agent of change" and demonstrate to us as role models that everyone can make a difference for their environment.

If you're wondering where to start and how to act to make an impact, here are some tips to get you closer to becoming a social entrepreneur:

- Find your passion and your strengths
- Find your team members and build a strong team culture
- Instead of worrying about the challenges do not hesitate to get started
- Ensure and sustain your self-motivation and guard your resilience.
- Foster your social networks and grow organically



Alara Tobin

I am a Politics and International Relations student at University College Dublin, Ireland, I am passionate about promoting social justice and equality with a particular interest in gender equality and disability inclusion. Through my studies and personal pursuits, I hope to play a role in advancing conversation and action towards a more inclusive society.