Chapter 14
Social and Civic Entrepreneurship in Lebanon and the Middle East

Salaheddine M. Chukri
Lebanese American University, Lebanon

ABSTRACT

The Middle East has acknowledged the importance and need of entrepreneurial activities which would flourish the economy and open new opportunities for employment. Providing employment to a young and growing population is the major challenge faced by countries in the MENA (Middle East and North America) region. Everywhere in the world, it is small firms that contribute most to job creation. Their ability to thrive and generate jobs is a function of the environment in which they operate and their capacity to deal with continuous change and build assets for the future. Hence firm competitiveness is high on the development agenda. In today's global environment, firms rather than nations have become the engine of growth, and competitiveness is the key for firms to survive.

DOI: 10.4018/978-1-5225-2066-5.ch014
People are attracted to entrepreneurs like Muhammad Yunus, the Nobel Peace Prize laureate, the same way they are attracted to Steve Jobs, they believe that these people are extraordinary with the ability to do extraordinary things. Muhammad Yunus and Steve Jobs are both examples of social entrepreneurs that have worked long and hard in order to change and improve people’s lives (Martin, Osberg 2007). The exact definition of social entrepreneurs can vary depending on the situation and on the person. Entrepreneurship is the ability to create a viable and prospective business that would have promising abilities to expand and regenerate to form several other successful businesses. Social entrepreneurship, is a sub group that focuses on the social impact of business. (Alvord, et al., 2002). Social entrepreneurship is summarized as a person, who has acquired a social idea, pursued a goal in mind that is set to develop and expand that idea, regardless of the limitations and obstacles, in order to help and improve society and its population. (Peredo, McLean 2005). Firstly, it can focus on the commercial aspect of entrepreneurship. Secondly, it can focus on the innovation of social entrepreneurship and its impact toward other businesses. Thirdly, social entrepreneurship can be viewed as solving a potential social problem before acquiring it (Alvord, et al., 2002). In Lebanon, findings have suggested that the Lebanese population are motivated to work depending on the availability of independence and flexibility, this could be due to the long war history that affected the Lebanese population physically and psychologically. Most Lebanese have acquired the skill of working from a relatively young age with an average of 17 years of experience (Sreih, 2010). However, Lebanon is not considered as part of the top innovating countries in the world, despite the long years of experience, due to the fact that at some point and time, Lebanon lacked a sense of stability and creativity. This instability has led to the Lebanese population shift from local corporate businesses, to private businesses in order to gain direct advantage over the long run. More than 90 percent of the businesses in Lebanon are family-owned, whereas the state-owned businesses dominate the economy today. (Charbaji, 2009).

Social and Civic Entrepreneurship revolve around the central question of who should and can take responsibility for the needs of civil society (Haugh, 2005). Two main social democracy models have been applied following the Second World War until today: The Keynesian model and the free market neo-liberalism or Laissez faire. But there also exists a third model, a compromise between the two models, which looks for the rebuilding of a strong civil society through community effort in partnership with the government (Thompson et al., 2000).
Strategic Groups in the Portuguese Banking Industry: An Analysis of the 2008-2010 Period
www.igi-global.com/chapter/strategic-groups-in-the-portuguese-banking-industry/228437?camid=4v1a

Relationship Quality: What It Means in Indian Retail Context?
www.igi-global.com/article/relationship-quality/182472?camid=4v1a

Adaptive Web Presence and Evolution through Web Log Analysis
www.igi-global.com/chapter/adaptive-web-presence-evolution-through/54800?camid=4v1a