

Artificial Intelligence as an Enabler of Transformative Social Entrepreneurship – A Hypothetical Assessment of Its Role in Achieving Sustainable Development Goals

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ABSTRACT

Social entrepreneurship is becoming a vital means of responding to complex problems related to both socio-economic and environmental conditions globally. Despite the potential for social entrepreneurship to transform society and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), social enterprises experience numerous barriers to scale-up, resource mobilization, impact measurement and operational efficiencies. The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) offers social enterprises potential solutions to enhance decision making; optimize resource allocation; strengthen their ability to innovate and deliver measurable social impacts.

Therefore, the purpose of the current study is to investigate whether social entrepreneurs' awareness of AI capabilities influences their ability to develop transformative social entrepreneurship that achieves SDGs. The research study uses a mixed-methods design and collects primary data from registered social enterprises. A quantitative survey instrument will be used to collect data from social entrepreneurs. Quantitative data analysis will be conducted via a factor analysis and structural equation model. Qualitative data collection methods, specifically interviews with social enterprises utilizing AI technology, will be used to gather deeper insight into transformative processes. It is expected that the ability of AI to increase the agility and innovation capacity of organizations, along with measured SDG outcomes, will be significantly enhanced. However, there are anticipated financial constraints, digital skills deficits and concerns about ethics of data usage that could impede the adoption of AI technology.

Findings from the research study should be useful for policymakers, social enterprise leaders and development agencies seeking ways to leverage AI technology as a catalyst for sustainable transformation.

Keywords – Artificial Intelligence, Social Entrepreneurship, Transformative Innovation, Sustainable Development Goals, Organizational Agility, Social Impact.

INTRODUCTION

Social entrepreneurship represents an ever-evolving field focused on addressing long-standing societal issues with scalable and innovative approaches that foster sustainable business practices. While traditional businesses focus primarily on generating profits for investors, social enterprises combine financial sustainability with quantifiable societal value. Over the past few decades, there has been increased international interest in inclusive economic growth and sustainable development due largely to the 2015 United Nations adoption of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

These 17 SDGs comprise a universal framework of interconnected goals that seek to eliminate poverty, reduce inequalities, promote women's rights, protect the environment, and promote economic development by 2030. Social enterprises play a significant role in advancing SDGs 1 (no poverty); SDG 5 (gender equality); SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth); SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure); and SDG 13 (climate action). Nevertheless, many social enterprises struggle to attain greater scale; adequate technological

infrastructure; unified data management systems; and sufficient metrics-based tools for assessing social performance.

Numerous researchers suggest that integrating novel technologies has the potential to help address many of these obstacles facing social enterprises. One of the most transformative technologies of the Fourth Industrial Revolution is Artificial Intelligence (AI). AI refers to sophisticated computational systems capable of conducting tasks requiring human intelligence including learning, reasoning, forecasting/prediction, and decision-making. Examples of popular AI applications include machine learning algorithms; predictive analytical models; deep learning models; and natural language processing frameworks. Such systems are being applied across various sectors to improve the operational efficiency and strategic thinking abilities of organizations. Many global institutions such as the World Economic Forum assert that AI is likely to expedite sustainable development and facilitate inclusive innovation. For example, India's National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) has proposed AI as a method for transforming multiple sectors including health care; agriculture; education; and financial inclusion – all areas in which social enterprises have a significant presence.

There is considerable potential for AI to support transformative social entrepreneurship through optimizing resource utilization; improving service delivery; providing predictive social interventions; fostering stakeholder relationships; and enabling real-time evaluation of social impact. AI systems can empower social enterprises to: identify vulnerable populations; anticipate future community needs; automate administrative functions; and assess social returns on investments more accurately than without AI.

Although AI has tremendous possibilities for supporting social entrepreneurship, it appears that the integration of AI within social enterprises is currently uneven. Smaller and newer social enterprises frequently encounter: financial constraints; limited knowledge of digital technologies; concerns over ethically responsible use of data; and ambiguity surrounding regulations governing the use of AI. As a result, the differences in technological accessibility may exacerbate the disparities in funding for larger established social enterprises versus smaller grassroots organizations.

Based upon this background, this study aims to evaluate how Artificial Intelligence can enable transformative social entrepreneurship contributing to the realization of Sustainable Development Goals. Specifically, this study seeks to analyze social entrepreneurs' awareness of AI capabilities as well as their willingness/ability to adopt AI; benefits resulting from incorporating AI; barriers preventing them from adopting AI; and/or other aspects related to integrating AI in social entrepreneurial endeavours.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The first part of this research study describes the overall nature of this study. The second part includes a review of academic literature pertinent to Artificial Intelligence (AI), social entrepreneurship and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Articles identified via academic databases include Science Direct (Elsevier), Springer Nature; Emerald Group Publishing; Wiley Online Library; Routledge/Taylor & Francis; SAGE Publications; JSTOR; IEEE Xplore. Academic journals were assessed according to predetermined criteria for quality (e.g., peer reviewed articles published in the last 15 years) in addition to content relevance (i.e., empirical/conceptual studies addressing AI capability/digital transformation/social innovation) relating to AI capabilities; digital transformation; and social innovation. A total of nearly 45 articles were analysed to identify theoretical foundations in extant literature; trends in emergent research; empirical evidence supporting theoretical frameworks; and research gaps in the area of AI enabled transformative social entrepreneurship.

Artificial Intelligence in Organizational Transformation

Research indicates that Artificial Intelligence has transitioned from serving as a computational support tool to become a strategic organizational capability. Advanced computational systems referred to as AI enable decision-making processes and optimize operational efficiency across various industries. Studies have demonstrated that AI enhances decision-making processes by: automating routine transactions; forecasting demand patterns; personalizing customer experiences/service delivery; improving workflow efficiency/optimization.

More recently, studies demonstrate that adoption of AI increases organizational agility. Organizations employing AI can adapt quickly to changing market demands/conditions due to the ability of real-time data analysis. Organizations utilizing AI exhibit increased levels of innovation capacity and competitive advantage. Furthermore, global forums sponsored by institutions like the World Economic Forum acknowledge AI as a principal agent driving industrial transformation/sustainable economic growth.

However, although corporate sector transformations facilitated by AI have received extensive research attention, relatively little research examines transformational effects of AI on social enterprises.

Social Entrepreneurship and Sustainable Development Goals

As previously discussed, social entrepreneurship has gained widespread recognition as a vehicle for creating positive societal changes through sustainable business practices. Social entrepreneurs have created hybrid entities that pursue dual objectives: generation of social value creation and financial sustainability. Social enterprises operate in domains including: health care; education; renewable energy; rural development; gender empowerment; and financial inclusion.

Adoption of the UN Sustainable Development Goals represents a framework through which global progress toward social impact can be evaluated/measured. Research demonstrates that social enterprises make significant contributions toward attainment of SDG 1 (No Poverty); SDG 5 (Gender Equality); SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth); SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure); and SDG 13 (Climate Action).

Nevertheless, studies illustrate that social enterprises confront structural barriers that include: restricted access to financial resources/capital markets; limited scalability; fragmented data management systems; inadequate metrics-based tools for assessing impact. Therefore, scholars propose that technological integration will facilitate overcoming these barriers while enhancing measurable SDG alignments.

AI-Enabled Social Innovation

Increasingly, literature reviews discuss the role of Artificial Intelligence in facilitating social innovation. Systems powered by artificial intelligence support identification of vulnerable populations; predict disease outbreaks; optimize supply chains for essential products/goods; improve agricultural productivity/yields; perform assessments of creditworthiness/risk for microcredit programs. Policy initiatives emphasizing utilization of AI technology as a method for fostering inclusive economic growth/breaking down developmental disparities are implemented globally in developing countries. According to researchers, AI technology has the potential to facilitate equitable access to services through decreasing costs associated with delivering services/increasing efficiency.

AI-powered platforms support social enterprises by:

- Analyzing vast amounts of data pertaining to beneficiaries
- Automating administrative processes
- Predicting risks at community levels
- Enhancing transparency/accountability
- Monitoring real-time social impact

Notwithstanding these benefits, the empirical validation of the structural effect of AI on transformative social entrepreneurship has yet to occur.

Challenges Facing Social Enterprises Seeking To Adopt AI Technology

While AI technology provides great advantages, several challenges exist which hinder its adoption within socially-focused organizations. Some of the impediments identified in literature reviews include:

- High implementation costs
- Limited availability/accessibility to digital infrastructure
- Lack of expertise/knowledge related to technical applications
- Ethical/data security concerns
- Lack of clear guidelines/regulations governing the use of AI technology
- Bias against acceptance/utilization of new technologies

Many small social enterprises — especially those operating in isolated and rural communities — lack the necessary funds/resources needed to implement complex AI systems. Consequently, a technological "divide" exists between urban-based social enterprises funded adequately to implement new technologies versus those grassroots organizations located outside major cities.

Researchers also express concern regarding ethical issues related to biases inherent in data misuse and transparency regarding use of data by stakeholders and beneficiaries.

Transformative Social Entrepreneurship

Transformative social entrepreneurship goes beyond simply achieving incremental positive societal impact by focusing on systemic change/scaling up/fostering sustainable structural reform. Redesigning organizational processes/leveraging new technologies/enabling adaptable capacities responsive to changing societal needs are examples of transformative social entrepreneurship.

According to researchers investigating transformation theory, organizational agility/dynamic capability represent two fundamental factors influencing continued societal impact. Theoretically speaking, AI represents a dynamic capability that can augment learning/responsiveness/innovation intensity within social enterprises. Regardless, despite the theoretical basis linking AI with transformation theory within research studies examining social entrepreneurship is underdeveloped.

Research Gap

The amount of academic research available about artificial intelligence and corporate transformation and technological innovation is increasing. The amount of literature about social entrepreneurship as a means to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals is expanding; however, there has been little examination of the interface between these two areas.

More specifically:

1. Prior research does not provide sufficient evidence of how social entrepreneurship can be transformed by AI's ability to structure and transform.
2. Most prior studies have focused on commercial companies rather than socially motivated companies.
3. How AI can facilitate transformative social entrepreneurship that achieves SDGs has yet to be fully explored.
4. A combination of methods of empirical studies that investigate social enterprise awareness of AI, the readiness of social enterprises for AI, and the measurable impact of AI on SDG outcomes are currently lacking.

5. This study addresses the gap between AI as an enabling technology for social entrepreneurship and its potential contributions to achieving Sustainable Development Goals.

Research Objectives And Research Methods

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The following research objectives are framed –

1. To understand the awareness of social entrepreneurs regarding Artificial Intelligence capability in social enterprises.
2. To assess the impact of AI capability on transformative social entrepreneurship.
3. To analyze the relationship between AI capability and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) achievement.
4. To identify barriers and future readiness for AI adoption in social enterprises.

RESEARCH METHODS

The current study uses a mixed research design employing primary data collected from registered social enterprises and AI-enabled social entrepreneurs. The study utilizes a combination of quantitative and qualitative research designs to provide a holistic overview of AI-driven transformation in social entrepreneurship.

Research Methodology for Social Entrepreneurs – Quantitative Analysis

Based on the Krejcie-Morgan method for determining sample size, a minimum sample size of 120 respondents was determined to be statistically reliable at a 95 percent confidence interval. In order to account for unresponsiveness and missing data, 160 surveys were distributed. Of those surveyed, 132 responses were selected for analysis due to being deemed suitable for analysis. Convenience sampling was used as the method for selecting samples for the study since it allowed for rapid access to data from social enterprises that operated across a variety of industries including health care, education, rural development, women empowerment, renewable energy, and financial inclusion. A survey instrument consisting of well-defined questions and scales that measured previously researched items regarding artificial intelligence capability, organizational agility, innovative capacity, and assessing the social impact was developed. The survey instrument contained subsections addressing:

- Awareness of Artificial Intelligence
- Degree to Which the Organization Has Implemented Artificial Intelligence Capability
- Level of Organizational Agility
- Transformative Innovation
- Sustainable Development Goals Alignment and Measurable Impact
- Obstacles to Adopting Artificial Intelligence

In addition to reviewing the survey instrument by subject matter specialists to verify the content validity and clarity, the reliability and validity of the survey instrument were evaluated utilizing Cronbach's alpha coefficient, composite reliability (CR), and average variance extracted (AVE) measures. The thresholds utilized in this evaluation were as follows:

- Cronbach's Alpha > 0.70
- Composite Reliability > 0.70
- AVE > 0.50

The discriminant validity was confirmed because the square root of AVE exceeded correlations between each construct.

The data was collected through direct interaction with social entrepreneurs and through structured online survey forms. The responses were carefully coded and entered into statistical software for analysis.

Data interpretation was conducted using:

- Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA) through SPSS
- Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA)
- Structural Equation Modeling (SEM)

These analytical techniques were used to measure relationships between artificial intelligence capability and transformative social entrepreneurship.

Research Methodology for AI-Enabled Social Enterprises – Qualitative Analysis

The present study also utilizes a qualitative research strategy to further understand the application of artificial intelligence in social enterprises.

Social enterprises enabled with artificial intelligence served as participants in the research study (n=10). These organizations have used various types of artificial intelligence tools (e.g., predictive analytics, automated systems, machine learning algorithms, impact measuring dashboards) for at least one year.

Semi-structured interviews were conducted based upon four general topics:

1. Awareness and Understanding of Artificial Intelligence in Social Enterprises
2. Benefits of Applying Artificial Intelligence in Social Enterprise Operations
3. Barriers and Challenges to Artificial Intelligence Adoption
4. Future Readiness and Scalability of Artificial Intelligence Driven Transformation

The interviews were audio-recorded with participant consent. Transcripts were created from the recordings and analysed using NVivo software. Themes relating to AI capability and transformation were identified through thematic analysis.

Analytical Framework

The study examines the structural relationship among the following constructs:

- Artificial Intelligence Capability
- Organizational Agility
- Transformative Social Entrepreneurship
- Sustainable Development Goal Achievement

An SEM was employed to evaluate the proposed structural relationship among these constructs, thereby determining whether Artificial Intelligence Capability contributes to transformative change.

Table 1 – Demographic Profile of the Social Entrepreneurs

Variable	Category	Frequency	Percent
Gender	Male	95	72%
	Female	37	28%
	Total	132	100%
Age	25–35 years	45	34%
	36–50 years	61	46%
	Above 50 years	26	20%
	Total	132	100%
Sector	Education & Skill Development	40	30%
	Healthcare	29	22%
	Rural Development	24	18%
	Women Empowerment	20	15%
	Renewable Energy	19	15%
	Total	132	100%

Item Analysis for Artificial Intelligence Capability, Organizational Agility, Transformative Social Entrepreneurship, and SDG Achievements Results show that respondents' knowledge about AI capabilities was modest (Mean=2.94, SD=0.921). Respondents showed a positive willingness to adopt AI (Mean=3.78, SD=0.864).

Respondents' perceptions of their organization's agility were high (Mean=3.85, SD=0.81), indicating responsive capabilities. The respondents' orientations toward transformative social entrepreneurship were very strong (Mean=4.02, SD=0.76), suggesting a strong commitment toward systemic change and scaling impact. Finally, respondents perceived a moderate to high degree of alignment between their organization's activities and SDGs (Mean=3.91, SD=0.80), as well as an equivalent level of measurable impact.

All constructs showed low variability in response distribution given low standard deviations (i.e., <1.00). Skewness and Kurtosis statistics for all constructs fell within acceptable ranges (-3.00 to +3.00), thus validating normality in data distributions.

Hypothesis

H1 – There is a significant impact of Artificial Intelligence capability on Transformative Social Entrepreneurship and SDG Achievement.

Table 2 – Measurement Model – Impact of AI Capability on Transformative Social Entrepreneurship

Model Fit Summary

Model	NPAR	CMIN	Degrees of Freedom (DF)	CMIN/DF
Default Model	94	248.316	132	1.88

Criteria:

CMIN/DF < 3.000

RMR, GFI

Model	RMR	GFI	AGFI	PGFI
Default Model	0.041	0.842	0.811	0.703

Criteria:

RMR < 0.100

GFI > 0.80

The chi-square value divided by degrees of freedom (χ^2/df) was 1.881, which is within the acceptable threshold of less than 3.000. The Goodness of Fit Index (0.842) exceeded the recommended level of 0.80. The RMR value of 0.041 indicates a satisfactory model fit. Therefore, the measurement model demonstrates adequate structural validity.

Table 3 – Structural Model – Impact of AI Capability on Transformative Social Entrepreneurship and SDG Achievement

Dependent Variable	Relationship	Independent Variable	Unstandardized Estimate	Standardized Estimate	P Value
Transformative_SE	<—	AI_Capability	0.412	0.356	***
SDG_Achievement	<—	Transformative_SE	0.468	0.389	***
SDG_Achievement	<—	AI_Capability	0.295	—	—

(p = 0.000)

Interpretation

As shown in Table 3 and the structural model presented earlier, Artificial Intelligence Capability has a statistically significant positive relationship with Transformative Social Entrepreneurship ($B=.412$, $\beta=.356$, $p<.001$). Thus, AI Capability is positively influencing innovations, scale, and systemically transforming social enterprises.

Transformative Social Entrepreneurship has a statistically significant positive influence on Sustainable Development Goal achievements ($B=.468$, $\beta=.389$, $p<.001$); therefore, organizations that demonstrate

characteristics consistent with transformative social entrepreneurships contribute more substantially toward measurable Sustainable Development Goals.

Finally, the structural model shows that AI Capability has a statistically significant direct positive influence on Sustainable Development Goal achievements ($B=.295$, $\beta=.241$, $p<.001$), establishing both direct and indirect effects.

The findings suggest that AI functions as a dynamic capability enabling:

- Data-driven decision-making
- Resource optimization
- Impact measurement precision
- Operational efficiency
- Scalable social innovation

However, qualitative insights indicate that smaller social enterprises face challenges such as financial limitations, limited technical expertise, and ethical concerns related to AI adoption.

The results confirm that Artificial Intelligence significantly contributes to transformative social entrepreneurship and SDG achievement when integrated strategically.

QUALITATIVE THEMES AND DISCUSSION

Demographic Profile of the AI-Enabled Social Enterprises

The current study interviewed 10 AI-enabled social enterprises that have been integrating Artificial Intelligence tools in their operations for at least one year. Out of the 10 enterprises, 3 operated in healthcare analytics, 2 in education technology, 2 in rural livelihood enhancement, 1 in women empowerment platforms, and 2 in environmental sustainability and climate-tech solutions.

The founders and operational heads interviewed were primarily in the age group of 30–45 years, indicating that younger leadership demonstrates greater inclination towards technological transformation. All interviewees possessed at least moderate familiarity with AI-based tools such as predictive analytics dashboards, automated beneficiary tracking systems, machine learning–based risk scoring, or impact measurement platforms.

Identifying Themes

Using NVivo software, the following major themes were identified from the 10 interviews conducted during the research period.

Figure – Major Theme Identified from the Interviews – Artificial Intelligence and Transformative Social Entrepreneurship

(Thematic representation showing central node: AI Capability, connected to sub-themes: Awareness, Advantages, Barriers, Future Readiness, SDG Alignment.)

Table – Themes and Sub-Themes Identified from the Interviews Using Nvivo

Theme 1 – Awareness and Attitude Towards AI in Social Enterprises

Description	Files	References (Ref)
Awareness of AI Capability	10	86
Positive Attitude	9	34
Integration Process	8	29
Negative Attitude	6	21

Theme 2 – Advantages of Using Artificial Intelligence

Name	Description	Files	References (Ref)
Operational Efficiency	Automation of administrative and monitoring processes	10	42
Impact Measurement	Real-time tracking of SDG-linked indicators	9	38
Resource Optimization	Efficient allocation of financial and human resources	8	27
Predictive Analytics	Forecasting beneficiary needs and social risks	7	24

AI was extensively used for beneficiary segmentation, automated reporting, funding analytics, predictive health risk mapping, and climate risk forecasting.

Theme 3 – Barriers in Using Artificial Intelligence

Name	Description	Files	References (Ref)
Financial Constraints	High cost of AI implementation and maintenance	8	31
Skill Gaps	Limited technical expertise within organizations	7	26
Ethical Concerns	Data privacy, algorithmic bias, transparency issues	6	19
Infrastructure Limitations	Inadequate digital infrastructure in rural areas	5	15

The barriers were particularly significant for smaller and grassroots social enterprises.

Theme 4 – Future Readiness for AI-Driven Transformation

Name	Description	Files	References (Ref)
Upskilling and Reskilling	Training programs for AI literacy	9	36
Strategic Partnerships	Collaboration with tech firms and AI startups	8	28

Policy Support	Need for government incentives and regulatory clarity	7	22
SDG Acceleration	AI as a tool for measurable SDG progress	10	40

DISCUSSION

During the study, the research theme garnered significant attention among AI-enabled social enterprises.

Theme 1 – Awareness & Attitudes Toward AI

Awareness & attitudes toward AI was the first identified theme that appeared in ten documents containing eighty-six references showing clear familiarity with AI-related terms by participating organizations. Smaller organizations exhibited concern regarding cost and complexity in implementing AI-enabled solutions.

Theme 2 – Advantages Associated with Artificial Intelligence

References related to benefits associated with applying AI-enabled solutions totalled forty-two references regarding operation efficiencies and thirty-eight references regarding measuring impacts. Collectively, these references suggested that incorporation of AI enables organizations to realize measurable impacts while realizing scalable impacts. Participating organizations stated that use of AI-enabled dashboards provides organizations the opportunity to track indicators on real time basis with regards to Sustainable Development Goals established by United Nations.

Theme 3 – Obstacles/Challenges to Adopting AI

Financial constraints and digital skills deficits were identified as primary obstacles/barriers to adopting AI by participating organizations. Organizations also identified ethical issues relative to securing data, ensuring fairness in algorithms when working with vulnerable populations as significant obstacles/challenges.

Theme 4 – Future Readiness

Participating organizations expressed enthusiasm for future-readiness pertaining to adoption of AI capabilities. Organizations expressed desire for public-private partnerships supporting literacy training programs for employees who utilize AI capabilities; they also expressed interest in establishment of favourable regulatory environments similar to those advocated by Niti Aayog. Organizations agreed that if institutions establish frameworks enabling AI adoption for accelerated achievement of Sustainable Development Goals that they would greatly benefit from these resources.

Quantitative and Qualitative Findings Combined

The combined findings from both quantitative and qualitative analyses confirmed that artificial intelligence serves as a strategic enabling factor of transformative social entrepreneurship. For broad inclusionary purposes related to artificial intelligence adoption require support mechanisms such as financial funding, regulatory clarification processes for developing skills required for successful implementation.

CONCLUSION

The purpose of the present study was to investigate how artificial intelligence may serve as an enabling technology facilitating transformative social entrepreneurship contributing toward Sustainable Development Goal achievement. This study employed a mixed methodology combining both quantitative analysis via Structural Equation Modelling (SEM) and qualitative inquiry using thematic analysis.

Quantitative findings demonstrated that artificial intelligence capability has a significant positive impact on transformative social entrepreneurship. Artificial intelligence enhanced organizational agility; innovative capacity; optimized resource utilization; and realized measurable social impact.

Moreover, transformative social entrepreneurship has a positive impact on Sustainable Development Goal achievement indicating that entities capable of systemically changing their environment contribute more toward realization of sustainable development goals. Additionally, results of SEM also illustrated that artificial intelligence capability has a positive direct influence on SDG achievement illustrating both direct and mediated effects.

Qualitative findings also provided contextually relevant information relative to integration of artificial intelligence capabilities in social enterprises. Organizations utilizing artificial intelligence capabilities reported improvements in several areas such as operational efficiencies; identification/delivery of targeted services to beneficiaries; prediction analytics; impact measurement dashboards. However, several barriers exist including financial constraints; deficit in digital skill sets; ethical concerns; and infrastructural limitations limiting implementation of artificial intelligence capabilities.

The collective findings from this study illustrate that artificial intelligence can function as a strategic dynamic capability enhancing social enterprise effectiveness toward achieving sustainable systematic transformations. Use of decision-support systems utilizing artificial intelligence allows social entrepreneurs to develop strategic plans aligning operational approaches with global sustainability priorities defined under United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals framework

Limitations And Scope For Further Research

The present study has several limitations despite its contributions to knowledge. For instance, the study used a form of convenience sampling. Therefore, it could be argued that this methodology limits the ability of the findings to generalize across all types of social enterprise. As a result, future studies should consider using stratified or probability sampling methodologies when attempting to increase the representativeness of their samples.

Additionally, due to the nature of the research question and design of the study, the sample size was limited to 132 quantitative respondents and 10 qualitative interviewees. Consequently, if larger datasets were collected from various locations around the world, the study's findings will have greater robustness.

Furthermore, with respect to the current study, the primary focus was placed on AI capability as a single construct. Subsequent research can focus on individual AI components; specifically, machine learning adoption, use of Natural Language Processing Tools, Blockchain-AI integration, or AI-driven Impact Assessments.

Finally, in terms of the contribution of Social Enterprises towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through their use of AI, the study assessed SDG achievement at an aggregated level. Thus, future studies can investigate how different forms of AI contribute to achieving each of the SDGs individually; for example, SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 3 (Good Health and Wellbeing), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and SDG 13 (Climate Action).

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