Social Innovation in Health: Definition and Conceptual Frameworks

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Learning Outcomes

At the end of the session, participants will be able to:

1. Define social innovation in health (SIH)
2. Discuss the rationale and value of SIH
3. Discuss the characteristics and components of social innovation
4. Given specific examples/case studies, identify the different characteristics of social innovations in health
Session Schedule

• Presentation (20 minutes)
  ○ Definition of SIH
  ○ Rationale and value of SIH
  ○ Characteristics of social innovation
  ○ Social innovation frameworks
  ○ Example of a social innovation in health
• Cases and discussion questions (20 minutes)
• Synthesis and closing
Social Innovation in Health
(van Niekerk et. al., 2017)

“A solution (process, product, practice, market mechanism) implemented through diverse organisational models. The solution has been developed by a range of actors in response to a systemic health challenge within a geographic context. It profoundly challenges the current system status quo and has enabled healthcare to be more inclusive, effective and affordable.”

(Social innovation in health: case studies and lessons learned from low- and middle-income countries)
“Social innovation in health is a community-engaged process that links social change and health improvement, drawing on the diverse strengths of local individuals and institutions. Social innovation argues that having local beneficiaries drive the development of a health programme results in more sustainable and accountable services.”

https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X(20)30070-X/fulltext
Rationale and Value of SIH
The need for socially innovative solutions

- Half of the world still lacks access to essential health services
- Well intended interventions and policies have failed
  - top-down expert driven approach
  - failure to address cultural and contextual realities
- SDGs call for an integrated and holistic approach, inclusive of all sectors and actors
- SIH has emerged as a means to address complex problems in novel, responsive, and transformative ways
Rationale and Value of SIH
The need for socially innovative solutions

• Social innovations…
  ○ Enhance government/public sector health delivery capacity
  ○ Re-imagine the role of human resources for health
  ○ Prioritize impact, agility and sustainability
  ○ Support data driven learning and decision-making
  ○ Outcomes extend beyond health

https://socialinnovationinhealth.org/innovation-overview/
Characteristics of Social Innovation

**STIMULUS**
- Social problems faced by individuals and communities
  (Cloutier, 2003; Goldenberg, 2004; Mulgan et al., 2007; OECD, 2011; Phillis, Deigmeier, & Miller, 2008)

**ACTORS**
- Social actors, organizations and institutions
  (Alex Nicholls & Dees, 2015)

**PROCESS**
- Inclusive participation, collaboration, coordination in design and decision making
  (Bignetti, 2011)
- Multi-level and collaborative governance
  (Moulaert & Nussbaumer, 2005)

**SECTORS**
- Interplay across technical, social, economic and political dimensions
  (Dawson & Daniel, 2010)

Dr. Lindi van Niekerk, *Social Innovation in Health – why, what is it, what is it not?*
Characteristics of Social Innovation

QUALITIES
- Solutions that are more effective, efficient, sustainable or just than existing solutions
  (Phillis et al., 2008)

OUTCOMES
- Institutional or systems change
  (Hämäläinen, Heiskala, & Sitra, 2007; Westley & Antadze, 2010)
- Changes in social relations and social practices
  (Andrew & Klein, 2010; Haxeltine et al., 2016)
- Empowerment: enhanced society capacity to act
  (The Young Foundation, 2012)

OUTPUTS
- New initiatives, services, processes, programmes, products
  (Degirmen, 2008; Goldenberg, 2004; Westley & Antadze, 2010)
- Socially creative strategy
  (Pue, Vandergeest, & Breznitz, 2016)
- New social relationships, collaborations, capabilities
  (The Young Foundation, 2012)

IMPACT
- To improve quality of life, well being and value to society as a whole
  (Cloutier, 2003; Dawson & Daniel, 2010; Phillis et al., 2008; Pol & Ville, 2009; The Young Foundation, 2012)
SIHI social innovation in healthcare delivery identification Framework
(van Niekerk, et. al., 2017)
Three-cycle model of social innovation (van Wijk et. al., 2018)

Conceptual model of the social innovation process (Cajaiba-Santana, 2014)

Process of Social Innovation
(Murray, Caulier-Grice, and Mulgan, 2010)
Social innovation pathways and drawing the link to co-production (Ayob, Teasdale, Fagan 2016)

Example of Social Innovation in Health

Drug Shop Integrated Care
The Drug Shop Integrated Care programme aims to improve the quality of services in private drug shops by adopting the WHO/UNICEF strategy for integrated Community Case Management in standardising care. Through the programme, shop attendants are trained to recognise malaria, pneumonia and diarrhoea. They can deliver the appropriate diagnostics and treatment that is affordable and accessible to families.
Questions for Discussion

● At the micro level, who are the actors that exhibited agency and what prompted them?

● At the macro level, what factors enabled the embedding of the innovation? What were the constraints?

Mentimeter link: https://www.menti.com/r8ww4nx9hv
Example of Social Innovation in Health

Seal of Health Governance (SOHG)
A health leadership program that encourages village leaders to be actively engaged in addressing their community’s health concerns through open-participatory competition. It fosters accountability, proactivity and community empowerment in the smallest political unit of the country.
Questions for Discussion

- At the meso level, what were the crucial interactions (collaborations, co-creation) in the development and implementation of the innovation?

- How did the innovation influence the macro context? What changes/outcomes happened in the system?

Mentimeter link: https://www.menti.com/9aekgwfqm2
• Social innovation in health provides a new lens or approach to complex and systemic health challenges.

• Social innovations are “social” in their means (process) and ends (results).

• Social innovation frameworks help deepen our understanding of the phenomenon and guide our research agenda.

• There is potential for social innovation in our work in the communities, as we seek to contribute to achieving health and well-being for all.

THANK YOU!