

Palgrave Studies in Democracy, Innovation,
and Entrepreneurship for Growth

Series Editor

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The central theme of this series is to explore why some areas grow and others stagnate, and to measure the effects and implications in a trans-disciplinary context that takes both historical evolution and geographical location into account. In other words, when, how and why does the nature and dynamics of a political regime inform and shape the drivers of growth and especially innovation and entrepreneurship? In this socio-economic and socio-technical context, how could we best achieve growth, financially and environmentally?

This series aims to address such issues as:

- How does technological advance occur, and what are the strategic processes and institutions involved?
- How are new businesses created? To what extent is intellectual property protected?
- Which cultural characteristics serve to promote or impede innovation? In what ways is wealth distributed or concentrated?

These are among the key questions framing policy and strategic decision-making at firm, industry, national, and regional levels.

A primary feature of the series is to consider the dynamics of innovation and entrepreneurship in the context of globalization, with particular respect to emerging markets, such as China, India, Russia, and Latin America. (For example, what are the implications of China's rapid transition from providing low-cost manufacturing and services to becoming an innovation powerhouse? How do the perspectives of history and geography explain this phenomenon?)

Contributions from researchers in a wide variety of fields will connect and relate the relationships and inter-dependencies among (1) Innovation, (2) Political Regime, and (3) Economic and Social Development. We will consider whether innovation is demonstrated differently across sectors (e.g., health, education, technology) and disciplines (e.g., social sciences, physical sciences), with an emphasis on discovering emerging patterns, factors, triggers, catalysts, and accelerators to innovation, and their impact on future research, practice, and policy.

This series will delve into what are the sustainable and sufficient growth mechanisms for the foreseeable future for developed, knowledge-based economies and societies (such as the EU and the US) in the context of multiple, concurrent and inter-connected "tipping-point" effects with short (MENA) as well as long (China, India) term effects from a geo-strategic, geo-economic, geo-political and geo-technological set of perspectives.

This conceptualization lies at the heart of the series, and offers to explore the correlation between democracy, innovation and growth.

More information about this series at
<http://www.palgrave.com/gp/series/14635>

Mitt Nowshade Kabir

Knowledge-Based Social Entrepreneurship

Understanding Knowledge Economy, Innovation,
and the Future of Social Entrepreneurship

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*This book is dedicated to Levan Levanovich Chekhaidze, teacher and mentor
who ignited my life-long interest in advanced technologies.*

PREFACE

The world is standing at the crossroad of new technology and knowledge-based epoch. It is dubbed by many as new knowledge era, fourth Industrial Revolution, post-industrial society, or simply knowledge economy. Drivers of growth in this new economy are advances in technology, the proliferation of knowledge, and continuous innovation by corporations and entrepreneurs. Entrepreneurs, in particular, are fueling the growth by propelling innovation, instigating new industries, and creating jobs. New technologies and explosion of information have created a fertile ground for entrepreneurship in the knowledge economy. Knowledge has already become the primary means of production and a substantial portion of end products in many industries. This impact of knowledge as a critical factor in innovation and production process and its importance as a product component have prompted the emergence of a new entrepreneurship domain—knowledge-based entrepreneurship.

Despite the fact that this rise of entrepreneurship and the impact of the technology on the economy are generating tremendous new wealth, the increasing prosperity did not eliminate many of the pressing social problems the world is still facing. However, in recent years, the rising awareness of the social challenges, better-educated population and easier access to knowledge, and the desire to make a difference have given a surge to the social entrepreneurship. The mission of social entrepreneurs is to address social issues through entrepreneurial activities. Along with

the expansion of the knowledge economy, social entrepreneurship armed with new possibilities owing to new technologies is also advancing gradually toward knowledge-based social entrepreneurship.

Knowledge-based social entrepreneurship is still in its early stage of growth, but signs are appearing that show that the process is speeding up. While interest in it is growing, its nature, constituting elements, and determinants causing its germination and evolution are still scantily studied and require better understanding. Both researchers and practitioners are curious to learn about this new phenomenon and ponder what makes it different from other types of social entrepreneurship, what should be the main focus areas to define its success, how entrepreneurs can take advantage of it, and how technology facilitates and at the same time necessitating its proliferation. These are not the only questions that are critical for grasping the rationale behind its value in solving some of the crucial and persisting social challenges. Apart from its immediate surrounding features, catalysts, processes, and factors, it is beneficial to learn what are the forces behind the growth of knowledge-based entrepreneurship, in which conditions it sprawls and why it is so invaluable for both the matured and developing economies.

This book is an effort to shed light on the present understanding of the knowledge economy, its components, and factors that drive this economy, advances in technology that is shaping the future, and knowledge and innovation as vital elements in entrepreneurship and business. It also illustrates and explains why and how entrepreneurs are one of the main forces behind the present economic growth, and why processes and strategies are key ingredients in knowledge-based social entrepreneurship.

North York, Canada

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