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# Social Innovation in Tackling Energy Poverty

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## Abstract

The pathways towards low-carbon energy transition are faced with the challenge of including energy vulnerable households, which is an issue of growing interest in Europe. Energy poverty refers to the difficulty or inability of a household to maintain adequate temperature conditions, as well as other essential energy domestic services, at a reasonable price. According to the Energy Poverty Observatory it is estimated that people were unable to keep their homes warm in the European Union, thereby experiencing energy poverty. If not specifically addressed by all actors, the consequences of the coronavirus pandemic could affect a greater number of vulnerable people, thus increasing energy poverty. Some progress has been made towards tackling the problem, but it remains a pressing challenge that requires attention to the wide variety of causes and perspectives involved, as well as the efforts of a wide range of actors.

**Keywords:** Multidimensional energy • Household energy• Consumption • Basic electricity• Demand • Income • Poverty

## Introduction

Energy poverty has been predominantly attributed to the triad of insufficient income, high energy prices, and energy inefficiency. However, other approaches see this delimitation as partial, since it ignores factors of a different nature, such as information asymmetries, energy efficiency strategies or more human-centered approaches. Multiple actors form the energy poverty network, including governments, regulators, private companies, civil society, and public-private agreements. Since there are a great variety of examples of social innovation relevant to energy poverty, discussed further below, to the Alliance against energy poverty, we examine the role of social innovation and social entrepreneurship in tackling energy poverty. For that purpose, we carry out a systematic literature review on the intersection between social entrepreneurship, social innovation, and energy poverty [1].

## Description

However, research has dominantly focused on the role of public agents, while little attention has been paid to business actors as social innovators tackling energy poverty. Moreover, energy poverty can be characterized as a wicked problem given its complex, systemic, multidimensional, and frequently invisible nature, which requires the coordinated participation of multiple interrelated actors. Therefore, hybrid approaches that bridge disciplines and domains are particularly appropriate to address energy poverty issues. Social entrepreneurship provides a clear illustration of hybrid organization that encompasses a social mission together with skills and solutions traditionally based on market logics. Social entrepreneurship is a loosely defined construct, but a mission related to solving social problems or to creating social value is widely accepted as a central feature. Moreover, social entrepreneurship is often associated with social innovation since social entrepreneurs are searching for innovative solutions to meet social needs [2].

Be that as it may, maybe on a more certain note, the proceeding with disturbances of COVID-19 have constrained individuals to embrace and acknowledge AI into their work and individual lives at a considerably more fast speed than if the pandemic had not pushed individuals into remote learning, medical care, and work circumstances. At the point when AI rises to the mental prowess of people, has a mindful cognizance, and can freely take care of issues, learn, and make arrangements for the future, then, at that point, it will move into the class of AGI. As of this composition, AI has not gotten that degree of insight. ASI would outperform the mental fortitude of the human cerebrum. Artificial intelligence, computerized advances, distributed computing, and huge information are as of now making critical monetary, social, political and natural effect in different areas of society. This effect will fill in extension and profundity as new advancements and applications multiply around the world. In a cutting edge worldwide economy, the poor are the most helpless against the monetary and social disturbances and separations that accompany these events since they have restricted admittance to cutting edge specialized schooling and the mechanical foundations [3].

Legislative pioneers and policymakers have an obligation to design and effectively oversee admittance to, and the reception of, socially and earth gainful utilizations of AI to safeguard the weakest individuals and moderate the adverse consequence on the least fortunate portions of society. For example, late AI advancements in agribusiness could carry significant changes to the most destitution stricken region of the world. In this paper, we investigate a portion of the arising rehearses and new innovation applications in horticulture. The dominance of partial approaches to complex problems calls for the need to adopt multi-actor approaches to energy poverty. In an attempt to respond to this call, we examine how the literature on energy poverty addresses the role of social innovation and social entrepreneurship in tackling energy poverty. The interest of the social innovation and entrepreneurship phenomenon to tackle energy poverty within the field of energy social science is of emerging relevance. Social entrepreneurship is acknowledged to be a productive space for building effective responses to the problem of energy vulnerability due to its collaborative and hybrid nature. As well as its capabilities for leveraging resources through the energy poverty social network. Potential contributions of social entrepreneurship to energy poverty might increase the number of innovative solutions for marginalized groups in the context of the inclusive energy transition from the lenses of energy justice [4].

This intersection may be a productive space to question conventional management practices that will allow us to change the lens through which we look at the problem. Moreover, limited research has addressed the issue from interdisciplinary lenses, and there is a particular lack of systematic literature reviews in the field of energy social science. The role of the social enterprise in energy poverty is only emerging, despite the widespread presence of social business and social innovation initiatives with a mission to tackle energy poverty. In this regard, we note the impact of the program of Asoka and the Schneider Electric Foundation to support social innovations in energy poverty in Europe. Although energy poverty is a global problem, it is also situational and varies along with the geographical context. In the global North, the number of energy

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vulnerable people is increasing despite the growing number of interventions from both the private and the third sectors. Research contributions on social entrepreneurship for energy poverty are still scant. This is specifically the case concerning poverty in the countries of the Global North [5].

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