

SOCIAL RETURN ON INVESTMENT 2017

WAWCAS - WOMEN AT WORK, CHILDREN AT SCHOOL

WAWCAS is a non-profit and non-governmental organization that empowers women who live in poverty in Nepal to become independent and able to achieve a better life through the WAWCAS Program. An effect of this is also that the women's children join school and thus are secured great prospects.

The WAWCAS Program is an entrepreneurial training program with a duration of 16 months, where women learn how to establish, operate, and grow a business. They are arranged in groups of approximately 25 women and are guided by certified Local Program Leaders.

They are educated in business development and social mobilization in the program. They also learn how to manage social problems in the families.

When the program finishes, the women have their own business and generate an income, their children go to school, social problems are reduced, and their life conditions are improved.

The outcome

The method used in this analysis is the Social Return on Investment (SROI), which frames a monetary valuation of voluntary work and social efforts by comparing the investments made in the social efforts with the effects created for the involved stakeholders. At WAWCAS, the investment is constituted by the contributors' donations and the volunteers' investment of time. The created effects are constituted by valuable increased well-being for the volunteers and increased income for the women who finish the program.

The analysis finds that WAWCAS creates 2.38 Danish Kroner in value for every DKK 1 that is invested in the organization.

The value is created for the stakeholders, specifically the women in the WAWCAS Program, the volunteers, and society in general. The high yield proves that the organization's activities are necessary and create great value of the applied funds.

The highest impact to the SROI ratio is the women's income increase after completing the program. It is measured as the difference between the women's pre- and post-level of income. This income increase is calculated for one year and then multiplied with the five years they are expected to run the business to begin with.

The value created for the volunteers consists of an increased personal well-being achieved through their work in WAWCAS. This value is measured with a general indicator for the well-being outcome of voluntary work.

The analysis has been composed with a conservative approach, but there are still some uncertainties in the calculations. The most important uncertainty is the duration of effects.

A sensitivity analysis has been conducted to unveil the uncertainty and how the results depend on e.g. different durations of the effects. The SROI ratio ranges from 0.66 if the effect only lasts for 1 year to 8.81 if the effect lasts for 20 years. In all, the SROI ratio is considered relatively high.

Additional value creation

A large share of WAWCAS' intervention cannot be valued monetarily. Other effects presumably caused by WAWCAS are children's education and reduction in social issues such as domestic violence and alcohol abuse. Furthermore, the communities where the women live are expected to be positively affected by the women's established businesses. These effects are expected to have a long-term impact.

The full analysis of WAWCAS is composed by Lind Invest in the beginning of 2017 based on data about the women enrolled in the program in 2014, and is documented in a SROI report, which is available online at www.lind-invest.dk.