

## **The Prospects of Social Entrepreneurship in South Africa: Lessons for Social Development Practitioners**

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**ABSTRACT** The desire for social developers such as social workers to achieve their social mission continues to spur research in many areas in South Africa. Social enterprises as tools to address social challenges are used to draw lessons for social development practitioners. The paper adopted a qualitative research approach where an explorative design was used to gain insights and understanding of the developmental terrain of social entrepreneurship in South Africa. The analysis revealed: the presence of emerging and growing social enterprises in the study area; where potential areas for social investing identified are ICT, early childhood development centres and recreational centres. The study further identified challenges such as misconception of the concept social enterprises and practices embedded in it. The paper concludes that there are valuable lessons that social development practitioners can learn from the actual and potential investments in social enterprises in transforming the interventions undertaken in the local communities.