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Abstract

This article explores whether social enterprise can be an alternative for work integration of the disabled. While persons with disabilities have undergone more severe exclusion than have other socially disadvantaged groups in the labor market, social enterprises selected the disabled as one of their main target groups, helping enact disability-centered public policy. However, unlike the high expectation social enterprise gained during its formation, less attention has been paid to the actual content and goal of social enterprise.

This analysis of 154 Korean social enterprises shows that the disabled are the most represented among socially disadvantaged groups in social enterprises. At the same time, disability-centered social enterprises considerably focus on creating jobs for the disabled rather than on providing social services for them. The findings are discussed in relation to some policy implications and issues facing social enterprises.

Keywords: social enterprise; disability-employment; job creation; work integration