WC 12 Social Investment 2

Private donations to public benefit are what is referred to as social investments. The argument makes the implied distinction that these donations are savings rather than current expenses intended for consumption purposes. In this regard, social investment is identical to investment in the conventional economic sense: they are expenditures for the purchase by an investor or the provision by a donor of a financial product or other item of value with the expectation of favorable future returns; or they are expenditures for the purchase by a producer or the provision by a donor of a physical good (Anheier, 2010).

Also, an option where we simply invest for social benefit would be impractical in today’s world, considering that most private funds account for the vast majority of investments, and lower returns would result in impoverished investors in the future (Solomon, 2013). Again, unless socially responsible investment generates returns that are at least equal to non-socially responsible investment, it is unlikely to develop and prosper.

Today, I am learning that it is key to weigh the options that one has when investing in any public or private firm. Most often we invest while looking at the returns. While going through this course my major take home is to always look at the company and its governance, its ethical practices and its social responsibility before investing in them. The reverse would be true of a company I would own.

**References**

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