

December - Consumerism

Low Tech - Case Study



**Calendar for
Climate
Change**

Quid-Pro-Guo - Inter-generational
Education to Ease Global Warmi



Case Study: SVP

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| Month: | December |
| Topic: | Consumerism |
| Case Study Title: | Charity Shops |



Source: Unsplash, Kira auf der Heide

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| Name of the Climate or Social Enterprise or Activist Group: | Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (SVP) |
| What is their Story? | <p>SVP is a voluntary network society aimed at combatting poverty in all its forms. This involves providing practical assistance to people in need. One of the ways that SVP raises money is through their 230+ charity shops across Ireland. These charity shops sell items of all kinds at reduced prices for the purpose of raising money for their mission.</p> <p>SVP actively helps to combat poverty in all areas of Ireland. This is important as many other charities focus on the most populated areas such as the cities. SVP work to combat both urban and rural poverty, and every year they run an appeal to donate food, toys, and other items so that everybody in the community can have a good holiday season.</p> |
| Link to the Case Study: | <p>Link: https://www.svp.ie/shops/</p> <p>Twitter: @SVP_Ireland</p> <p>Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/SVPIreland</p> |




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| Why is this a Good Example to Follow? | <p>This is a great example to follow because charity shops give customers an opportunity to ensure that their money is going to a good cause while also giving new life to goods. Buying second-hand is more sustainable as it advances the lifecycle of already existing products.</p> <p>SVP sell a wide variety of items including books, clothing, toys, homeware, soft furnishing, wedding dresses, among many others. These products are donated by other people and then checked to ensure that the products sold are of the best quality. These products are then sold and the money made from the products are put towards helping people facing poverty in the local community. The products sold by SVP are also sold a considerably lower prices than those found in stores and this can make more expensive brands accessible to everyday consumers. This is particularly helpful over the holiday season as it allows people to spend less more on traditionally expensive gifts, and ensures that these items are given new life.</p> |
| What Impact has this case study example achieved? | <p>These charity shops have helped to reduce the level of poverty in Ireland while also extending the lifecycle of all products by selling them second-hand. Through the money donated from every purchase, SVP are able to assist people facing poverty in the local community through the provision of food, furniture, clothing, among other things (SVP, 2022). This means that every euro spent in the charity shop is added right back to the community, while also providing a desired product.</p> <p>By buying second-hand products and items, people help to cut down on the environmental costs of production. These products have their lifecycle extended and are used to their fullest extent. This helps to make products and gifting more sustainable and responsible. It has the added bonus of the money spent on the product of going to a good cause that benefits the community, which makes it even more sustainable and responsible.</p> |
| References | <p>SVP. (2022). <i>Shop with Us</i>. Society of St. Vincent De Paul. https://www.svp.ie/what-we-do/shops/</p> |



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