DEPUTY Higher Education Minister Datuk Saifuddin Abdullah has urged higher learning institutions to undertake research and development on the concept of social entrepreneurship.

“This is the time for higher learning institutions to analyse social entrepreneurship and how it will help the lower income group, which make up 40 per cent of the population," he said at the BSN Inter Varsity Social Venture Award Presentation yesterday.

According to Saifuddin, University Malaysia Kelantan, Universiti Tun Abdul Razak and Binary University College have introduced academic courses on social entrepreneurship.

"In Malaysia, our pioneering social entrepreneurs have been able to develop creative business models around difficult social problems and generate sufficient or even surplus profits."

He said the ministry would like to strengthen the culture of social entrepreneurship and create innovative solutions for some of the challenging social and environmental issues.

“This is in line with the ministry's drive to meet the nation's objective of creating an entrepreneurial and innovative society that is also active in social entrepreneurship.”