

Thesis Abstract

No. _____

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Thesis Title: Resilience of Women Entrepreneurs and Social Capital in Gujarat, India			
Thesis Summary: This research focuses on women entrepreneurs' mindset and entrepreneurial ecosystem in Gujarat State, western India. Semi-structured interviews of 200 women entrepreneurs, namely, 100 from the informal sector and another 100 from the formal sector, were conducted in Gujarati, Hindi, or English, to gain insight into the realities of women entrepreneurs. Women entrepreneurs are analyzed under three comparative frameworks: the informal sector versus the formal sector, food businesses versus non-food businesses, and rural-based enterprises versus urban-based enterprises. The decision-making process of women entrepreneurs in initiating, maintaining, and expanding their businesses is analyzed and discussed in the light of social capital. This is an empirical research on the dynamics of home, work, and market for women entrepreneurs to identify what makes them resilient, revealing the common resilience parameters in their entrepreneurial journeys. Participatory observation and stakeholder analysis of the interviewees were performed to reveal remedial measures by institutional interventions. Through the study, the presence of fear of failure is revealed as a key concept to understand their entrepreneurial ecosystem. Policy implications towards sustainable business management and further research directions suggest which resilience elements need to be taken care of with institutional interventions. The 10 resilience parameters measuring entrepreneurial ecosystem is critically examined through extensive field visits to evaluate the status of women entrepreneurs attempts to offer valuable insights to understand the life of women entrepreneurs by capturing the intersection of women's lives and businesses. The research outcome of this study is a policy framework recommendation to enhance the resilience of women entrepreneurship by offering timely institutional supports to women entrepreneurs to transform informal enterprises into formal entities and enhance their resilience. Keywords: WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS, ENTREPRENEURIAL MINDSET, ENTREPRENEURIAL ECOSYSTEM, RESILIENCE, SOCIAL CAPITAL, GUJARAT, INDIA			