

Submitted Abstract

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First Author First Name Last Name	Jerit Dube
Submitting Author First Name Last Name	Jerit Dube
Correspondence	jerit.dube1089@gmail.com
Co-Authors >> E-Mails will be not listed	Nyamukondiwa, Pertina; Magaiza, Grey
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Abstract

The high failure rate of women-led emerging enterprises in the Southern African mountain regions is an evident reflection of the various adversities and vulnerabilities that exist. Although this is the case, there is a limited understanding of these adversities and vulnerabilities that dispose them to failure. This situation is worsened by poverty, high unemployment and unstable economy in the Afromontane region. Emerging female entrepreneurs in this region often operate in uncertain situations, hence they require resilience in order to succeed. Although previous researchers have made a significant contribution towards understating of women entrepreneurship resilience, there is still a gap in existing literature on the nexus between entrepreneurship resilience, capability, vulnerability reduction and resource mobilization in the Southern African mountain regions. However, these scholars acknowledge that there is a relationship between entrepreneurship resilience, capability, vulnerability reduction and resource mobilization. This study attempts to fill this gap by exploring the nexus between entrepreneurship resilience, capability, vulnerability reduction and resource mobilization among emerging female entrepreneurs in QwaQwa. As research on this phenomenon is still new, the findings of this study will contribute to the body of literature and provide recommendations for future research. Qualitatively, a phenomenological approach will be employed to gather information from emerging female entrepreneurs on how vulnerabilities make it difficult for them to build stronger entrepreneurship resilience to adversities. Through snowball sampling, 10 participants, who have been into entrepreneurship from 0-5 years will be invited to participate in this study. Data will be collected through in-depth interviews, focus group discussions and observations. Atlas.ti-based thematic content analysis will be used analyse data. The results of this study will assist policy makers in developing policies for reducing vulnerability and strengthening women entrepreneurship resilience in rural mountain regions. Results from this study will also provide insights for development practitioners and researchers on developing programmes that improve capability and resource mobilisation strategies when attempting to reduce vulnerability and build entrepreneurship resilience of female entrepreneurs. A paper discussing the results of this study will be published as a journal article. As a result, emerging female entrepreneurs from the Southern African mountain regions will gain understanding of the various strategies which they can use to build resilience to adversities.

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