
Editorial

Naman Sharma

Indian Institute of Foreign Trade,
Kolkata Centre, 1583 Madurdaha,
Chowbagha Road, Kolkata 700107, India
Email: namanshandilya@gmail.com

Biographical notes: Naman Sharma is currently working with IIFT, Kolkata, India. His research areas include employee deviance, ethical issues at workplace and employee engagement. He has authored two books and several research papers with reputed publishers such as IGI-Global, Emerald and other Scopus Indexed Journals.

In recent times, promoting and sustaining entrepreneurs is a vital task for emerging economies wherein job creation and business sustainability are considered to be of paramount importance. Entrepreneurs have a delicate task to create a balance between organisational functioning, raising funds, manpower management, product development, resource management and so on. It is obvious that all these tasks cannot be efficiently managed all the time all by themselves and therefore the role of structured and committed entrepreneurial ecosystems (EE) (in support of these entrepreneurs) become very important.

Extant research has established the importance of entrepreneurship in sustainability of economy and thus a lot of researchers are inclined towards this field (Dana, 2002). EE has garnered a lot of attention and interest from both academia and Cohen (2006) as ‘an interconnected group of actors (in a region) committed towards the holistic development and sustainability of new ventures’. Since, entrepreneurship is considered important to all economies alike irrespective of their size, nature and location, it needs to be analysed in different cultures, social and economic settings (Sharma and Singh, 2016) to establish generalised theories and implementable solutions for practitioners/entrepreneurs.

This special issue on ‘Entrepreneurial ecosystems: issues, trends and challenges’ is a sincere attempt to advance knowledge in the field of EE.

The opening paper entitled, ‘Linking sustainable development to startup ecosystem in India – a conceptual framework’ speaks for sustainable development of Indian startups through a proposed triple bottom line framework. This review paper successfully highlights the various aspects of startups ecosystem that are linked to its development over time.

In the next paper, ‘Impact of digitisation on entrepreneurial ecosystems: an Indian perspective’, authors provide an extensive theoretical framework to link the importance of digitisation in development of entrepreneurial culture in the country. The thorough review conducted in the study would act a good source for future research in this subject area.

The subsequent paper, ‘Awareness, entrepreneurial event theory and theory of planned behaviour as antecedents of student entrepreneurial intentions: an Indian

perspective' is an empirical study conducted on Indian students testing their entrepreneurial intention through the perspective of two theories, i.e., EET and TPB.

Next article titled, 'Psychological empowerment and entrepreneurship: insights from Indian corporate' explores the role that psychological empowerment on employees' entrepreneurial intentions. It concludes that understanding of such cognitions provide assistance to employees to attain their maximum potential in term of performance.

In the penultimate paper titled, 'A conceptual framework for entrepreneurial orientation: is philanthropy missing in family business?', authors explain the impact of family support on entrepreneurial orientation of future entrepreneurs. The conceptual framework provided in the study can be used in future research to further develop the relationship explained in the study.

The last paper titling 'Celebrity entrepreneurship and advertising effectiveness: an empirical test' is a unique study which undertook the concept of celebrity entrepreneurship and establishes its relationship with advertising effectiveness. Author presented a conceptual model on cognitive responses and utilised CFA to test its structure. In this way, this study explored a niche area contributing tremendously to the purpose of this special issue.

In totality, this special issue attempts to cover the various facets of EE existing today. I hope that the papers covered in this issue would be well received by all and would serve insights and motivation to entrepreneurs, researchers, academicians and students of entrepreneurship to further contribute in this field.

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