

CHAPTER 6

BEYOND BLOOD AND MARRIAGE: BUILDING PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT ECOSYSTEMS

Satish Sharma

 /0009-0008-5988-9533

Lead Management Consultant, SKS Consulting & Advisors, India

ABSTRACT

Family support forms the backbone of many entrepreneurial endeavors, yet entrepreneurs benefit from expanding their networks beyond blood relations to access varied resources, fresh perspectives, and new opportunities that relatives cannot supply. We consolidate research on entrepreneurial ecosystems, mentorship relationships, peer support frameworks, and professional resource management. Using social capital theory, network analysis, and entrepreneurial learning models, this chapter shows how entrepreneurs can build and use diverse support networks during venture development. The chapter presents research-backed methods for finding entrepreneurial communities, building mentor relationships, creating peer support systems, and accessing professional services when needed. Evidence shows entrepreneurs with varied, well-developed support networks display stronger resilience, better resource access, and longer-lasting ventures compared to those depending primarily on family support or working alone.

Keywords: entrepreneurial networks, mentorship, peer support, social capital, professional resources, entrepreneurial communities

INTRODUCTION

The entrepreneurial path presents numerous challenges and uncertainties (Neck et al., 2017). Family support systems offer emotional, financial, and practical help to many entrepreneurs (Aldrich & Cliff, 2003). However, research demonstrates the constraints of depending exclusively on family networks (Arregle et al., 2015).

The concept "it takes a village" applies directly to entrepreneurship. Successful venture creation and growth demand diverse resources, knowledge, skills, and connections that no single support system can deliver (Stam, 2015).

This chapter explores how entrepreneurs can build and use non-familial support networks to improve their success prospects. Support networks encompass the

THIS IS A LIMITED PREVIEW OF THE CHAPTER.

To read the full-text chapter, get access by purchasing this chapter or consider buying the complete book. If your library has a subscription to EBSCOhost, this chapter, including other chapters of the book, can be accessed through your library.

This chapter is a part of the book, *'The Human Side of Entrepreneurship: Mental Health, Family Systems, and Cultural Identity'* edited by Satish Sharma.

ISBN: 978-93-49926-21-9 (ebk); ISBN: 978-93-49926-09-7 (hbk); ISBN: 978-93-49926-53-0 (pbk)

The ebook and print version of this book are available at:
<https://dx.doi.org/10.46679/9789349926219>

The book and its metadata are available worldwide via EBSCOhost Academic Collection, EBSCO E-Books, Google Books, Google Play Books, WorldCat Discovery Service/OCLC, Crossref Metadata Search, CSMFL Bookstore, and other leading book resellers and academic content vendors.