

Designing a Social Minority Entrepreneurship Model with an Emphasis on Socially Vulnerable Women Entrepreneurs: A Qualitative Content Analysis Study

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ABSTRACT

Entrepreneurship, as one of the key strategies for social and economic empowerment, plays a significant role in improving the conditions of vulnerable groups. In this regard, socially vulnerable women entrepreneurs, as part of social minorities, face numerous structural, cultural, institutional, and individual barriers in their entrepreneurial pathways, the identification and explanation of which require a deep and interpretive approach. The aim of the present study was to design a conceptual model of social minority entrepreneurship with a focus on socially vulnerable women entrepreneurs using a qualitative approach. From a paradigmatic perspective, the study was situated within the interpretivist framework and, in terms of approach, was inductive, employing qualitative content analysis as the research method. Data were collected through semi-structured interviews with 15 academic experts and specialists in the field of social entrepreneurship, and sampling continued through a snowball technique until theoretical saturation was achieved. The data analysis process involved open, axial, and selective coding using MAXQDA software. The findings led to the identification of a set of causal, contextual, intervening, strategic, and consequential categories, which were integrated into a comprehensive conceptual model. The results indicate that entrepreneurship among socially vulnerable women is a multidimensional phenomenon dependent on the interaction of individual, institutional, and social factors. The proposed model can provide a theoretical and practical foundation for supportive policymaking, the design of empowerment programs, and the development of future research in the field of social entrepreneurship.

Keywords: Social entrepreneurship; Social minorities; Socially vulnerable women entrepreneurs; Qualitative content analysis; Model

Introduction

In recent decades, women's entrepreneurship has increasingly been recognized as a critical driver of inclusive economic growth, social development, and gender equality. Beyond its contribution to employment creation and income generation, women's entrepreneurship has been associated with broader developmental outcomes such as poverty reduction, social inclusion, and community resilience. However, despite its growing prominence in policy discourse and academic research, women entrepreneurs continue to face persistent structural, institutional, and socio-cultural barriers that constrain their entrepreneurial potential and well-being. These challenges are particularly acute for women operating in vulnerable socio-economic contexts, where limited access to financial resources, weak institutional support, and entrenched gender norms intersect to shape entrepreneurial trajectories (1, 2).



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The contemporary literature increasingly emphasizes that women's entrepreneurship cannot be understood through a uniform or gender-neutral lens. Instead, it must be examined as a context-dependent phenomenon embedded within specific social, cultural, and institutional environments. Studies grounded in collectivist and developing-economy contexts demonstrate that women entrepreneurs' agency is often mediated by family structures, community expectations, and social networks, which simultaneously function as sources of empowerment and constraint (3, 4). This contextual embeddedness challenges universalized models of entrepreneurship and calls for more nuanced analytical frameworks that capture the lived realities of women entrepreneurs across diverse settings.

Recent scholarly attention has shifted toward examining empowerment as a dynamic, multidimensional process rather than a static outcome of entrepreneurial activity. Empowerment through entrepreneurship encompasses economic independence, psychological growth, social recognition, and enhanced decision-making capacity. Research highlights that women's entrepreneurial empowerment unfolds through complex interactions between individual capabilities, relational dynamics, and institutional arrangements (4, 5). Consequently, entrepreneurship is increasingly conceptualized not merely as a business activity but as a transformative process that reshapes women's identities, aspirations, and social positions.

Financial accessibility remains one of the most frequently cited determinants of women's entrepreneurial engagement and success. Empirical evidence from diverse regional contexts underscores the role of microfinance, credit availability, and savings mechanisms in facilitating women's entry into entrepreneurship and sustaining their ventures (6, 7). However, access to finance alone has proven insufficient to ensure long-term empowerment. Without complementary institutional support, skills development, and social legitimacy, financial interventions risk reinforcing subsistence entrepreneurship rather than enabling sustainable growth-oriented ventures (1).

In parallel, scholars have increasingly examined the psychological dimensions of women's entrepreneurship, highlighting the importance of psychological capital, emotional intelligence, and resilience. Entrepreneurial self-efficacy, optimism, and emotional regulation have been shown to significantly influence women's entrepreneurial orientation, opportunity recognition, and persistence in the face of adversity (8, 9). These internal resources are particularly salient for women navigating multiple role expectations and social pressures, especially in contexts where entrepreneurship is driven by necessity rather than opportunity.

Work–family dynamics represent another critical dimension shaping women's entrepreneurial experiences. Women entrepreneurs frequently operate at the intersection of productive and reproductive labor, balancing business responsibilities with caregiving roles. Research conducted in culturally conservative contexts illustrates that work–family conflict can undermine entrepreneurial performance, psychological well-being, and growth aspirations, particularly in the absence of supportive family structures and institutional childcare provisions (2, 10). At the same time, family involvement can function as a source of emotional support, labor contribution, and informal financing, highlighting the ambivalent role of family in women's entrepreneurship (3).

The rapid advancement of digital technologies has introduced new opportunities and challenges for women entrepreneurs. Digital transformation has been identified as a strategic enabler of market access, innovation, and business resilience, particularly in post-crisis and resource-constrained environments. Digital platforms, e-commerce, and social media marketing offer women entrepreneurs alternative pathways to overcome spatial, cultural, and institutional barriers (11, 12). Nevertheless, digital divides related to skills, infrastructure, and access

continue to reproduce gendered inequalities, limiting the transformative potential of digital entrepreneurship for vulnerable women.

Innovation has emerged as a central theme in contemporary research on women's entrepreneurship. Contrary to earlier assumptions that positioned women primarily in low-growth or traditional sectors, recent studies document women's increasing engagement in innovative activities, particularly when supported by conducive ecosystems and dynamic capabilities (13, 14). Innovation in women-led enterprises extends beyond technological novelty to include social, organizational, and process-based innovations that address unmet social needs and enhance community well-being.

The concept of dynamic capabilities has gained prominence as a theoretical lens for understanding how women entrepreneurs adapt to changing environments and pursue sustainable growth. Dynamic capabilities such as learning, reconfiguration, and strategic sensing enable women entrepreneurs to respond to uncertainty, leverage opportunities, and align resources with evolving market demands (5). This perspective underscores that women's entrepreneurial performance is not solely determined by initial resource endowments but by their capacity to continuously transform capabilities in response to contextual pressures.

Collective mechanisms of empowerment, including self-help groups, cooperative networks, and community-based initiatives, play a pivotal role in enhancing women's entrepreneurial agency. Empirical evidence demonstrates that participation in collective structures strengthens women's bargaining power, social capital, and access to shared resources, thereby amplifying both economic and social outcomes (1, 15). Such mechanisms are particularly relevant for marginalized and socially vulnerable women who face systemic exclusion from formal entrepreneurial ecosystems.

Despite the growing body of research, several critical gaps remain in the literature on women's entrepreneurship. First, much of the existing scholarship relies on quantitative, variable-centered models that inadequately capture the complexity and contextual embeddedness of women's entrepreneurial experiences. Second, there is a relative scarcity of integrative frameworks that simultaneously account for economic, psychological, social, institutional, and digital dimensions of women's entrepreneurship. Third, studies focusing explicitly on socially vulnerable women—those affected by poverty, social exclusion, or structural disadvantage—remain limited, particularly in non-Western contexts (13, 14).

Moreover, while empowerment is frequently invoked as an outcome of women's entrepreneurship, the mechanisms through which entrepreneurial activities translate into empowerment remain under-theorized. Recent conceptual work suggests that empowerment should be understood as a process involving meaning-making, identity reconstruction, and resilience development, rather than merely as increased income or business ownership (16). This perspective aligns with emerging approaches that view entrepreneurship as a potential pathway for psychological healing, social reintegration, and dignity restoration among vulnerable populations.

Taken together, the reviewed literature underscores the necessity of adopting holistic, context-sensitive, and process-oriented approaches to studying women's entrepreneurship. There is a pressing need for qualitative research that foregrounds women's lived experiences, captures the interplay of structural constraints and individual agency, and generates integrative models grounded in empirical data. Such approaches are particularly vital for understanding entrepreneurship among socially vulnerable women, whose entrepreneurial journeys are shaped by cumulative disadvantages and adaptive strategies across multiple domains (7, 11).

Accordingly, the present study seeks to address these gaps by developing a comprehensive, empirically grounded model of entrepreneurship among socially vulnerable women that integrates individual, social, institutional, and technological dimensions within a coherent conceptual framework, with the aim of explaining the conditions, processes, and outcomes that shape women's entrepreneurial empowerment.

Methods and Materials

From a philosophical paradigm perspective, the present study is situated within the interpretivist framework and adopts a qualitative and inductive approach to examining the phenomenon of social minority entrepreneurship, with a particular focus on socially vulnerable women entrepreneurs. The selection of this approach is based on the assumption that social reality is multidimensional, context-dependent, and shaped by actors' interpretations; therefore, its understanding requires direct interaction between the researcher and participants, as well as engagement with data in their natural settings. In terms of purpose, the study is developmental, and in terms of nature, it is exploratory, meaning that it seeks to derive concepts and theoretical relationships from empirical data without relying on predetermined hypotheses.

The research strategy in the qualitative phase was qualitative content analysis, which enables the identification of patterns, meanings, and latent relationships within textual data. The study participants comprised academic experts and specialists in the fields of social entrepreneurship and social minorities, who were selected purposively using a snowball sampling technique. The sampling process continued until theoretical saturation was achieved. Ultimately, data were collected through semi-structured interviews with 15 experts. The criterion for theoretical saturation was met when additional interviews no longer generated new codes or concepts.

The primary data collection instrument was the semi-structured interview, designed to balance research guidance with participants' freedom to articulate their experiences and perspectives. Interview questions focused on understanding the factors influencing entrepreneurship among socially vulnerable women, existing barriers and facilitators, the role of supportive institutions, and the outcomes of entrepreneurial activities. All interviews were conducted with participants' informed consent and, following audio recording, were transcribed verbatim.

Qualitative data analysis was conducted concurrently with data collection using MAXQDA software. The analysis process comprised three stages: open coding, axial coding, and selective coding. During open coding, initial concepts were extracted from the interview texts and labeled. In the axial coding stage, relationships among codes were examined and organized into conceptual categories. Finally, in the selective coding stage, the core categories were identified and integrated into a unified conceptual model illustrating the causal, contextual, intervening, strategic, and consequential dimensions of social minority entrepreneurship.

To ensure the validity and reliability of the qualitative findings, the trustworthiness criteria of qualitative research—including credibility, transferability, dependability, and confirmability—were carefully addressed. Credibility was enhanced through member checking with selected participants and independent coding by the researcher and a panel of experts. Transferability was ensured by providing rich, thick descriptions of the research context and participants. Dependability and confirmability were achieved through detailed documentation of the research procedures and systematic recording of the data analysis process.

Findings and Results

The findings of the present qualitative study are derived from the systematic analysis of semi-structured interviews conducted with experts in the fields of social entrepreneurship and social minorities. Through an iterative process of open, axial, and selective coding, a comprehensive conceptual structure of entrepreneurship among socially vulnerable women was developed. The analysis revealed that this form of entrepreneurship is shaped by a dynamic interaction between individual, social, institutional, and technological factors. The extracted categories reflect not only the antecedents and contextual conditions of entrepreneurial action but also its enabling mechanisms, barriers, strategic processes, and developmental outcomes. In total, the findings were organized into a set of core categories and subcategories that together constitute an integrated conceptual model of entrepreneurship for socially vulnerable women

Table 1. Categories, Subcategories, and Codes Identified in the Qualitative Analysis

Core Category	Subcategory	Codes
Entrepreneurial Needs and Drivers	Economic	Training and financial assistance; Access to credit and loans; Asset ownership; Government support and subsidies; Micro-investment; Reduction of start-up costs; Access to export markets
	Individual–Psychological	Independence in production; Psychological motivation (self-efficacy, self-esteem); Self-confidence; Risk-taking tendency; Innovation orientation; Interest in entrepreneurship; Personal goal setting
	Social–Cultural	Family participation; Social support; Role of successful role models; Male participation; Reduction of gender discrimination; Change in societal attitudes; Cultural education
Skill Development	Technical	Digital training; IT skills; Specialized production skills; Learning modern tools; Market-related technical skills; Technology updating
	Innovative	Creative problem solving; Knowledge-based entrepreneurship; Lifelong learning; Innovative teamwork; New product design; Process innovation
	Managerial	Leadership skills; Time management; Strategic planning; Human resource management; Financial management; Effective decision-making; Conflict management
Supports and Infrastructures	Legal	Supportive government policies; Business regulation reform; Access to formal registration; Reduction of bureaucratic barriers; Legal transparency
	Social	Inclusive work environment; Support for vulnerable groups; Access to local resources; NGO support; Social support networks; Business incubators; Accelerators
	Financial	CSR projects; Access to finance; Investment funds; Development banks; Social investment; Entrepreneurial insurance; Tax incentives
Structural Challenges and Barriers	Economic	Lack of financial resources; Limited markets; Structural rigidity; Unfair competition; Economic instability; High unemployment; Currency fluctuations
	Cultural	Gender discrimination; Breaking traditional norms; Negative perceptions of women entrepreneurs; Family restrictions; Social stereotypes; Weak cultural education
	Legal–Institutional	Bureaucracy; Legal costs; Licensing complexity; Discriminatory regulations; Institutional incoherence
Empowering Motivations and Attitudes	Individual	Self-efficacy; Self-confidence; Desire for independence; Learning orientation; Job satisfaction; Personal goal setting; Achievement motivation
	Internal	Identity reconstruction; Self-affirmation motivation; Increased self-esteem; Positive attitude toward entrepreneurship; Individual resilience; Financial independence
	Social	Male participation; Social support; Social acceptance; Redefinition of women's roles; Social role modeling; Social valuation
Healing Entrepreneurship	Individual	Transforming hardships into opportunities; Psychological reconstruction; Increased hope; Improved quality of life; Personal growth; Individual resilience
	Collective	Social participation; Mutual aid networks; Reconstruction of social relations; Strengthening solidarity; Collective hope; Reduction of marginalization
	Community	Collective action; Voluntary activities; Group support; Shared celebrations and activities; Cooperation during crises
Digital Capability for Market Growth	Technological Innovation	Crowdfunding; Social media; Business applications; E-commerce platforms; Data analytics; Blockchain; Cloud computing
	Digital Innovation	Digital skill enhancement; Adoption of modern technologies; Product innovation; Process innovation; Dedicated app design; Process automation

Collaborative Networking	Digital Marketing	Online marketing; Network marketing; Smart advertising; Content marketing; Artificial intelligence in marketing
	Formal	University–industry collaboration; Trade unions; Professional associations; Chambers of commerce; Exhibitions and events
	Informal	Knowledge exchange; Cooperative action; Strategic partnerships; Resource synergy; International collaboration
Social Startup Growth	Supportive	Sisterhood support networks; Peer mentoring; Family and friends; Local networks; Volunteer groups
	Sustainability	Inclusive business practices; Sustainable income; Natural resource preservation; Promotion of social justice; Local sustainable development
	Social Impact	Youth entrepreneurship; Innovative social solutions; New business models; Social accelerators; Innovation in social services
Resilience Capacity	Social Innovation	Emotional support; Social visibility; Participatory leadership; Increased public participation; Reduced social vulnerability
	Individual	Decision-making autonomy; Time management; Problem-solving skills; Stress management ability; Learning from failure; Personal motivation
	Organizational	Transformational leadership; Crisis management; Flexible culture; Organizational innovation; Emergency planning; Resource management
	Social	Income control; Social cohesion; Support networks; Market re-entry; Local community cooperation; Social resilience

The findings indicate that entrepreneurial needs and drivers constitute the foundational layer of entrepreneurship among socially vulnerable women. Economic needs such as access to finance and cost reduction interact closely with psychological motivations, including self-efficacy, confidence, and innovation orientation. These drivers are further reinforced or constrained by social and cultural conditions, particularly family support, societal attitudes, and the presence of role models. This highlights that entrepreneurial entry for socially vulnerable women is rarely driven by economic incentives alone, but rather by a complex interplay of material necessity and identity-related motivations.

The category of skill development emerged as a central enabling mechanism that translates entrepreneurial intentions into action. Technical, innovative, and managerial skills collectively shape women's capacity to sustain and scale entrepreneurial activities. Digital and technological competencies were particularly salient, reflecting the growing importance of technology-mediated markets. At the same time, managerial skills such as strategic planning and financial management were repeatedly emphasized by participants as critical gaps that often determine entrepreneurial success or failure.

Supports and infrastructures were identified as decisive contextual conditions that either facilitate or hinder entrepreneurial trajectories. Legal transparency, reduced bureaucracy, and access to formal registration were repeatedly cited as prerequisites for legitimacy and market participation. Social infrastructures, including NGOs, incubators, and support networks, functioned as compensatory mechanisms for structural disadvantages. Financial infrastructures, especially socially oriented funding instruments, played a pivotal role in lowering entry barriers for women lacking conventional collateral.

Conversely, structural challenges and barriers formed a persistent counterforce across all stages of entrepreneurship. Economic instability, discriminatory regulations, and deeply embedded cultural norms were described as systemic constraints that disproportionately affect socially vulnerable women. Cultural barriers, particularly gender stereotypes and family-based restrictions, were found to undermine confidence and limit mobility, reinforcing the need for interventions beyond purely economic support.

The findings further revealed that empowering motivations and attitudes operate as internal catalysts that help women navigate adverse conditions. Processes such as identity reconstruction, self-affirmation, and resilience building transform entrepreneurship into a means of personal and social empowerment. These motivational

dynamics extend beyond individual outcomes and contribute to broader social acceptance and redefinition of women's roles.

A distinctive contribution of the study is the identification of healing entrepreneurship, which conceptualizes entrepreneurship as a psychosocial recovery process. Entrepreneurial engagement enables women to convert lived hardships into opportunities for growth, hope, and social reintegration. At the collective level, it fosters solidarity, mutual support, and community resilience, positioning entrepreneurship as both an economic and therapeutic practice.

The categories of digital capability for market growth and collaborative networking underscore the strategic dimensions of contemporary entrepreneurship. Digital tools expand market access and visibility, while collaborative networks—formal, informal, and supportive—enhance resource mobilization and learning. These dimensions are critical for overcoming isolation and scaling entrepreneurial initiatives.

Finally, social startup growth and resilience capacity represent the long-term developmental outcomes of the entrepreneurial process. Sustainable business models, social innovation, and enhanced resilience at individual, organizational, and community levels collectively illustrate how entrepreneurship among socially vulnerable women can generate enduring social and economic value.

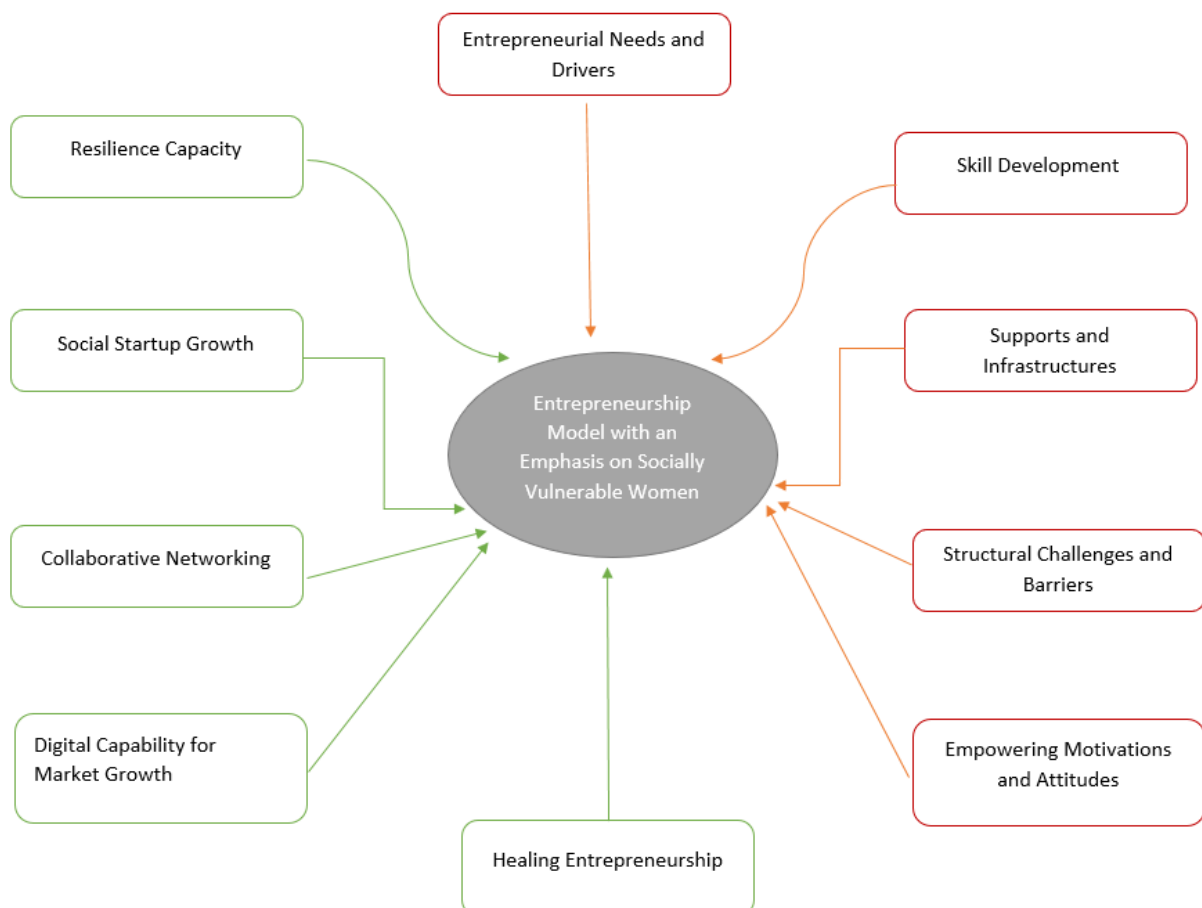


Figure 1. Final Model of the Study

Discussion and Conclusion

The purpose of this study was to develop an integrative and context-sensitive model of entrepreneurship among socially vulnerable women, and the findings provide strong empirical evidence that such entrepreneurship is a multidimensional and process-oriented phenomenon shaped by the interaction of individual, social, institutional, and technological factors. The results demonstrate that entrepreneurship for socially vulnerable women cannot be reduced to economic activity alone, but rather functions as a pathway for empowerment, resilience-building, and social reintegration. This finding aligns with contemporary perspectives that conceptualize women's entrepreneurship as a transformative process embedded within specific socio-cultural and institutional contexts (2, 4).

One of the central findings of the study is the foundational role of entrepreneurial needs and drivers, particularly the interdependence of economic necessity and psychological motivation. The results show that access to financial resources, such as credit, micro-investment, and cost-reduction mechanisms, is a primary trigger for entrepreneurial entry among socially vulnerable women. This confirms previous empirical evidence emphasizing the critical importance of financial availability for women's economic empowerment, especially in contexts characterized by structural disadvantage (6, 7). However, the findings also extend prior research by illustrating that financial access alone is insufficient unless accompanied by psychological drivers such as self-efficacy, confidence, and innovation orientation, which shape women's ability to mobilize resources effectively (8, 9).

The strong emphasis on psychological and identity-related drivers supports the view that empowerment through entrepreneurship is not merely material but deeply relational and internal. The emergence of self-confidence, goal-setting, and autonomy as core codes reflects an empowerment trajectory consistent with process-based empowerment models (4). This result is also congruent with studies highlighting the role of emotional intelligence and psychological capital in sustaining women's entrepreneurial engagement under conditions of stress and uncertainty (2, 8). In line with Desai's conceptualization of empowerment as the transformation of freedom into agency, the findings suggest that entrepreneurship enables socially vulnerable women to reconstruct their identities and regain a sense of control over their lives (16).

Another significant contribution of the findings lies in the identification of skill development as a central enabling mechanism linking entrepreneurial intention to sustainable action. The results demonstrate that technical, innovative, and managerial skills operate synergistically rather than independently. In particular, digital and technological skills were repeatedly emphasized as critical for market access, efficiency, and growth. This finding strongly aligns with recent scholarship on digital entrepreneurship, which highlights digital transformation as a strategic resilience mechanism for women entrepreneurs in resource-constrained and post-crisis environments (11, 12). The emphasis on continuous learning and innovation also resonates with bibliometric evidence indicating that growth-oriented women entrepreneurship is increasingly associated with dynamic capability development rather than static resource possession (5, 14).

The findings further reveal that supports and infrastructures function as critical contextual conditions shaping entrepreneurial viability. Legal transparency, reduced bureaucracy, and access to formal registration were identified as prerequisites for legitimacy and scalability. This corroborates prior research emphasizing that institutional barriers disproportionately affect women entrepreneurs, particularly those operating informally or at the margins of the economy (1). Social infrastructures, including NGOs, incubators, and support networks, were found to mitigate

institutional gaps by providing knowledge, legitimacy, and social capital. These results are consistent with studies highlighting the role of strong ties and collective contexts in empowering women entrepreneurs, especially in collectivist societies (3, 4).

At the same time, the persistence of structural challenges and barriers underscores the systemic nature of women's entrepreneurial disadvantage. Economic instability, discriminatory regulations, and entrenched cultural norms emerged as interlocking constraints rather than isolated obstacles. The prominence of cultural barriers, such as gender stereotypes and family restrictions, echoes findings from prior studies documenting how normative expectations limit women's entrepreneurial agency and increase psychological strain (2, 10). Importantly, the findings suggest that these barriers not only restrict access to resources but also shape women's self-perceptions and risk orientations, reinforcing cycles of marginalization.

A particularly novel contribution of this study is the articulation of empowering motivations and attitudes as mediating mechanisms between structural constraints and entrepreneurial outcomes. The findings show that self-efficacy, resilience, and identity reconstruction enable women to reinterpret adversity as a catalyst for growth. This aligns with self-determination and empowerment perspectives that view motivation as socially embedded and dynamically constructed through interaction with contextual conditions (4, 16). The social dimension of empowerment, including male participation, social acceptance, and role redefinition, further highlights that women's entrepreneurship is relationally produced rather than individually achieved.

The concept of healing entrepreneurship constitutes another significant theoretical advancement emerging from the findings. The study demonstrates that entrepreneurship serves not only economic and social functions but also therapeutic and restorative ones. Through entrepreneurial engagement, socially vulnerable women transform lived hardships into sources of meaning, hope, and psychological recovery. This finding complements emerging research that positions social entrepreneurship as a mechanism for addressing psychosocial wounds and rebuilding collective solidarity (13, 15). By emphasizing both individual healing and collective cohesion, the results extend existing entrepreneurship frameworks beyond performance metrics toward holistic well-being outcomes.

Digital capability for market growth emerged as a strategic driver of sustainability and scalability. The findings indicate that digital tools—such as e-commerce platforms, social media, and data analytics—enable women entrepreneurs to overcome spatial, cultural, and institutional barriers. This supports recent arguments that digital affordances can democratize entrepreneurship by lowering entry barriers and expanding market reach (11, 12). However, the findings also suggest that digital empowerment is contingent upon skill acquisition and supportive ecosystems, reinforcing concerns about digital divides reproducing existing inequalities (5).

Collaborative networking was identified as a cross-cutting strategic mechanism linking empowerment, innovation, and resilience. Both formal and informal networks facilitated access to knowledge, resources, and legitimacy, while supportive networks—particularly peer mentoring and sisterhood structures—provided emotional reinforcement. These findings align with network-based entrepreneurship research emphasizing that women's entrepreneurial success is deeply embedded in relational infrastructures (3, 14). Moreover, collective mechanisms such as self-help groups and community-based alliances reflect broader patterns of socio-economic empowerment observed in marginalized populations (1, 15).

Finally, the outcomes of social startup growth and resilience capacity illustrate the long-term developmental implications of women's entrepreneurship. The findings show that sustainable business models, social innovation, and enhanced resilience at individual, organizational, and community levels are mutually reinforcing. This supports

contemporary perspectives that frame women's entrepreneurship as a contributor to inclusive development, social justice, and sustainable growth rather than merely firm-level success (2, 13). By integrating resilience as both a process and an outcome, the study advances theoretical understanding of how women entrepreneurs navigate uncertainty and generate enduring social value.

Despite its contributions, this study has several limitations. The qualitative design and purposive sampling strategy, while appropriate for theory development, limit the generalizability of the findings to other populations and contexts. Additionally, the reliance on expert perspectives may underrepresent the lived experiences of socially vulnerable women entrepreneurs themselves. The cross-sectional nature of the data also restricts insight into how entrepreneurial empowerment evolves over time.

Future research could build on this study by employing longitudinal designs to examine the dynamic evolution of empowerment, resilience, and entrepreneurial outcomes. Mixed-methods approaches combining qualitative insights with quantitative validation would further strengthen the robustness of the proposed model. Comparative studies across cultural and institutional contexts could also enhance understanding of how contextual factors shape women's entrepreneurial trajectories differently.

From a practical perspective, policymakers and practitioners should adopt integrated support strategies that simultaneously address financial access, skill development, psychological empowerment, and institutional reform. Entrepreneurship programs targeting socially vulnerable women should incorporate digital training, mentoring networks, and culturally sensitive interventions. Creating inclusive entrepreneurial ecosystems that recognize entrepreneurship as both an economic and social-healing process can significantly enhance the sustainability and impact of women-led ventures.

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Authors' Contributions

All authors equally contributed to this study.

Declaration of Interest

The authors of this article declared no conflict of interest.

Ethical Considerations

All ethical principles were adhered in conducting and writing this article.

Transparency of Data

In accordance with the principles of transparency and open research, we declare that all data and materials used in this study are available upon request.

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