

Communication Entrepreneurship and Finance

Renegotiating Diverse Perspectives

Edited by
Manpreet Arora
Roshan Lal Sharma

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Contents

	Introduction	7
	Section I COMMUNICATION	
l.	Entrepreneurial Leadership: A Focus on Key Communicative Strategies — Rita Devi	21
2.	Role of Communicative Leadership in Developing Intrapreneurial Culture in Organizations:	
	A Conceptual Framework — Rupinder Bir Kaur, Gunmala Suri and P.P. Arya	31
3.	Critical Pedagogy and English Language Learning: Perceptions and Practices in Indian Context	38
4.	— Priyanka Verma and Anu, G.S.Spiritual Leadership in Organizations— Sunil Kumar	47
5.	Communication, Entrepreneurship and Finance: An Inevitable Trio for Business Sustainability	58
6.	— Manpreet AroraCommunication in the Era of Post-Truth— Roshan Lal Sharma	68
7.	Organizational Conflict Management and the Role of Communication — Aparna Shastri	76

6 (Communication, Entrepreneurship and Finance	
8.	Theorising Communication — Prateek Deswal and Roshan Lal Sharma	87
	Section II ENTREPRENEURSHIP	
9.	Community-based Rural Enterprise in Thailand: The Case of One Tambon One Product (OTOP) — Mokbul Morshed Ahmad	97
10.	From Classroom to Boardroom: Cultural Challenges of Women Entrepreneurship — S.C. Vetrivel and T. Mohanasundaram	115
11.	Entrepreneurial Marketing in Telecommunication: An Analysis of Reliance's Jio Breaking Red Queen's Effect — Khushdil Chhabra and Sakshi Gidder	122
12.	A Study on the Role of Women Entrepreneurs in Changing Scenario: A Case Study of Karnal City — Yogita Sharma and Vikram Singh	122
13.	Entrepreneurship Disclosures in India: A Study of MSME Sector — Sahil Mahajan	136
	<u>Section III</u> FINANCE	
14.	Insights on Strategies of Indian Firms in Post-Liberalized Period Through M&As in IT Sector — Amit Soni	171
	Relationship of Government Bond Market with Interest Rate and Exchange Rate: An Analysis of Evidence from Five Emerging Economies (BRICS) — Shariq Ahmad Bhat and G. Shanmugasundaran	183
16.	Stress Management in Banking Sector: An Empirical Evaluation — Inderjit Singh	193
17.	Sustainable Microfinance: The Indian Perspective — Manpreet Arora	20 I
	List of Contributors	217

Communication in the Era of Post-Truth

Roshan Lal Sharma

Interestingly, the notion of post-truth engages us the most today not because it extends philosophically or conceptually the domain of truth but because it is totally removed from it, and addresses politics of the day. Since politics has its bearing on each arena of human activity, it can be safely argued that its post-truth dimension has caused serious damage to political discourse. In post-truth era, facts are carefully (at times even shamelessly) ignored to lend credence to emotions/passions/personal beliefs. To do this, data in the form of information is manipulated selectively to achieve desired results. Posttruth communication process is characterized by a serious manipulation of the message. Despite tampering with/evasion of facts in the crisis of the present, truth must matter as it cannot be ignored owing to the havoc caused by post-truth politics which manipulates information/ data/news/ media to subserve one's personal and political motives. As a result of this, language becomes a serious causality because everything that is articulated has to suit one's purpose, howsoever sinister, in the name of patriotism/national interest.

'Post-truth' became the word of the year 2016, it gained enormous popularity during subsequent years dominated by post-

Theorising Communication

Prateek Deswal & Roshan Lal Sharma

The act of communication among human beings began with the birth of humanity. In fact, the process existed much before the sound representing communication came into existence. The moment we start thinking about language in linguistic terms, we have gone beyond its graphic representation/character. In contemporary times, 'communication' has indeed become a very complex term as human beings today do not simply communicate thoughts but ideas, ideologies, abstractions, and interpretations. To theorise a concept that embodies such intricate and complicated structures of thought, becomes an arduous task primarily because we are attempting to define a notion that creates socially intelligible realities and cultural structures. The challenge is not simply to investigate the act of passing/ conveying information but reach beyond the edifice of structural wholeness of communication and thereby analyse the whole process. It is the "structurality of structure" (Derrida 89) which is being investigated. Instead of the message, the medium is put under the scanner and if "the medium is the message" (McLuhan 7) then it certainly should be the primary object of study for all knowledge domains.

Communication takes place through various means. It can be visual, oral, written, verbal as well as non-verbal. Human beings have