

ABSTRACT

Learning and Innovation in Clusters: case studies from the Indian silk industry

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The aim of the research is to investigate processes of learning and knowledge creation in Indian industrial clusters, drawing upon case study material from two silk clusters in Madhya Pradesh and in Tamil Nadu.

In the dissertation a novel theoretical framework is proposed, which complements economic perspectives on learning and innovation with views from cognitive studies and the sociology of knowledge. Learning and innovation are approached as socially situated phenomena, as forms of social practice, and as such they are examined within, and as part of, the economic and social milieus of Chanderi and Arni. Factors shaping access to knowledge resources and determining the degree of innovative behaviour are brought to light and the relevance of the findings for other contexts is discussed.