

# Resilience, Mêtis and Survival: How Egyptian Women Outsmart the Ills of Global Capitalism

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## Abstract

The fruits of global capitalist policies in developing countries rarely reach the poor. Structural adjustment policies have resulted in the privatization of public firms and the curbing of public services, leaving women among the most vulnerable groups. Faced with such challenges, women are increasingly turning to micro enterprises for financial inclusion and empowerment. In Egypt, women living below the national poverty line are seeking microloans for survival. This essay examines Egyptian women's survival tactics, by drawing on Cindy Katz's notion of resilience and applying the classical rhetorical concept of mêtis to the material effects of microlending. I argue that Egyptian female micro-clients exercise cunning (crafty) intelligence and resilience to outwit the brutalities of global capitalist policies, which tend to shift the local and national economic landscape in unpredictable ways.