

# Writing a Resume after a Career Break

A definitive e-guide for getting back into the workforce - Resumod.co



# "There is no force more powerful than a woman determined to rise."

-Bosa Sebele

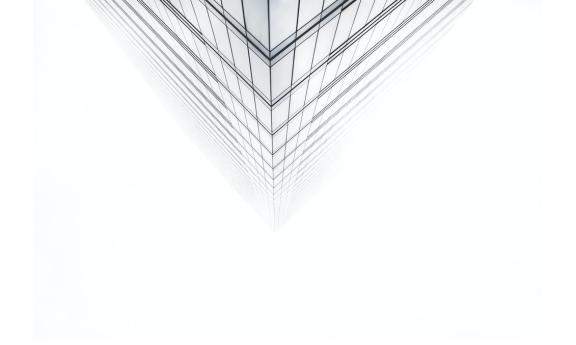




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# 1. YOU ARE NOT ALONE

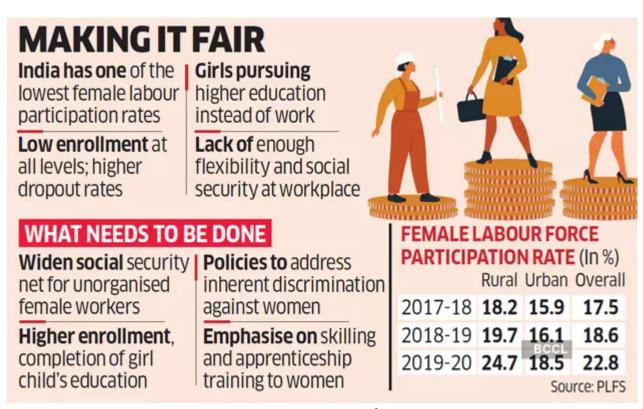
You are an ambitious woman, who entered the workplace years ago, made a successful career and handsome money out of it. However, you stopped midway, took a break and prioritised other things – family, maternity, elderly care, health – and your career took a back seat. You lost the money and your dreams while managing other responsibilities.

Sounds familiar? This is the story of most women in India, and globally.

Women take sabbaticals from work – which sometimes extend the planned duration. Despite the length of the career break, the challenges for all the women are the same:

- Difficulty in getting back
- Challenges in getting fair pay
- Less opportunities for professional growth

A 2022 survey by LinkedIn revealed that two-thirds of employees have taken a break at some point in their professional careers. A whopping 70% of these are women.



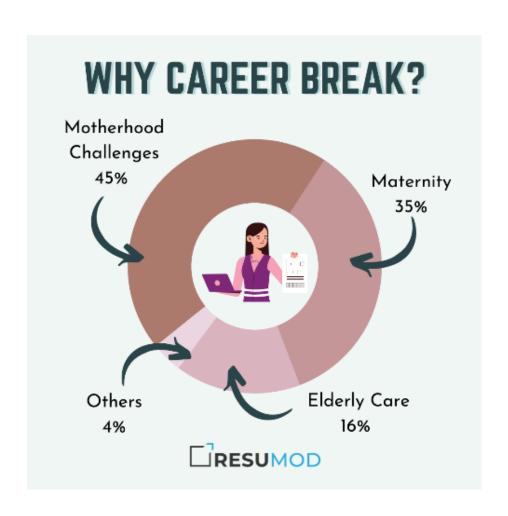
**Women In Workforce** 



# WHY CAREER BREAK-WHAT DATA REVEALS

The key reasons for most women taking career breaks are not always personal. The difference in gender roles and the role of women as a caregiver propel women's decision to take career breaks.

As per a 2019 research report by Avtar, an organization which works to promote diversity and workplace inclusion in India, top three reasons for women taking career breaks are Motherhood challenges (45%), Maternity (35%), and elder care responsibility (16%).

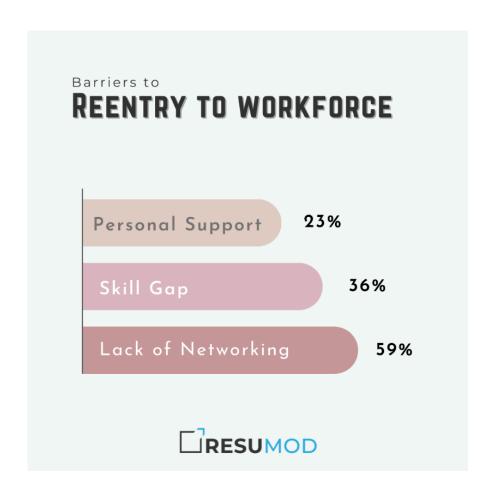




# **CHALLENGES TO RENTRY**

The Avtar, 2019 survey further revealed the top three barriers to start a second career include absence of a strong network according to 59%, skill gap (36%), and lack of support at home (23%).

The survey revealed that the majority of respondents (69%) anticipate a pay cut on reentry due to the prevalence of motherhood wage penalty, which refers to mothers suffering from wage and hiring disadvantages in the workplace.



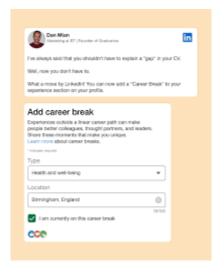


# 2. INCREASING DEMAND FOR WOMEN AT THE WORKPLACE

The fact that women face challenges in re-joining workforce is undeniable. After covid-19, when layoffs became an everyday affair, corporates have started accepting career break as a norm. They are accepting candidates with career gap, more than ever.

# LINKEDIN ANNOUNCED A "CAREER BREAK" SECTION

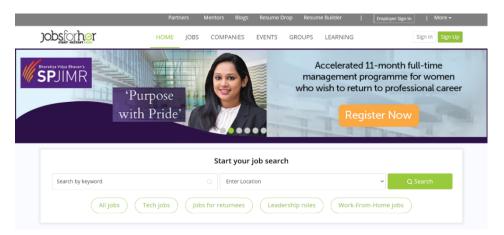
This step is stepping stone towards breaking stereotypical views on career break.



Source: LinkedIn's Facebook page

# SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS FOR WOMEN

There are dedicated platforms, organizations, and programs that support moms and women with their second careers. Examples include JobsforHer in India





## **CAREER RETURNER PROGRAMS**

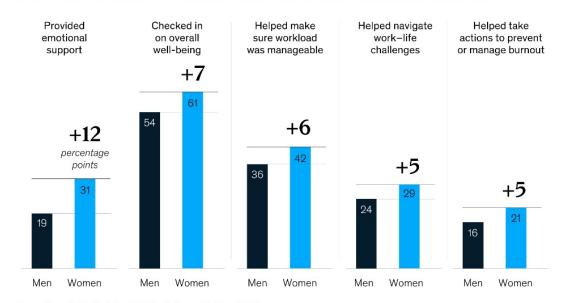
Many corporates are launching career returner programs. These programs acknowledge that women and moms with career break are already skilled, with little training and skills they can be an asset to any organization. Some corporates running these programs include **S&P Global, Accenture. Deloitte, SAP, Google, GE etc.** These short-term programs give you a chance to return to work and restart your career. Just go to Google and type "Career returner programs".

#### WOMEN ARE COMPASSIONATE MANAGERS

Organizations accept that women help drive financial performance and innovation. Studies show that having women in leadership can help a company's business performance.

Employees with women managers are more likely to say that their manager has supported and helped them over the past year.

Actions taken by managers to support employees, by manager's gender, % of respondents



Source: Women in the Workplace 2021, LeanIn.Org and McKinsey, 2021



# 3. STEPS TO RE-ENTER THE WORKFORCE

World is moving faster than ever, all industries are evolving at light-speed, workforce dynamics and work culture is changing. Making a comeback in such evolved workplace is a big decision! Make sure you give it a thought.

Here is a systematic process to making a powerful comeback:

# Step 1: Decide and Evaluate your Decision

Figures, data, and experiences of women re-entering workforce reiterate one single pointit is a big challenge.

# Ask yourself:

- Will you be able to put in extra hours required to make a promising career?
- Will you be able to manage your personal and professional responsibilities seamlessly?
- Will you be OK at working on lower pay?

# **Step 2: Evaluate Your Skills Honestly**

Once you have decided to make a powerful re-entry, it is time to update your skills. Before doing that:

- Assess the current marketplace and trends
- Do you want to go back to your previous profile?
- If no, what do you need and how will you upskill?
- If you pivot, list your top skills; check their viability and where you can use them. Learn more.

Upskill as required. Get trained, or join a program.

# **Step3: Resume Building**

Once the background and mind set work is done, it is time to get deep into the job search process. Your job search starts with a resume. You cannot use your old resume. Create a new resume, updated with your career break and tailored for your job search.

The next chapter is fully dedicated to building a resume after a career break.

# **Step 4: Start Your Job Search**

With a new resume and skills in your arsenal, your now completely equipped. Start job-hunting online, apply through career returner programs, and your network on social media sites like LinkedIn.



# 4. RESUME BUILDING FOR YOUR SECOND CAREER

The resume form your previous jobs is outdated, it does not show your new skills, your career break, and is not speaking to the recruiters who are ready to hire women after career break.

#### **CREATING A RESUME HEADLINE**

A Resume always starts with a Resume Headline where you briefly mention the position you are striving for in addition to your domain exposure in various experienced sectors or industries.



# **WRITING A RESUME SUMMARY**

A resume summary or opening statement, placed at the top of your resume describes your **core skills, qualifications, and experience**. It conveys your qualifications for the position in 3–5 sentences and persuade the hiring manager to read the rest of the resume document. Some of the most significant accomplishments, your career, and one or two of your strongest skills are highlighted in a resume summary. To make your resume summary to stand out, customize it to meet the specific objectives of the organization.

In a career break Resume, your resume summary, ties together your career history, break, qualifications, and skills. Include a brief description of your career background, core competencies and skills.



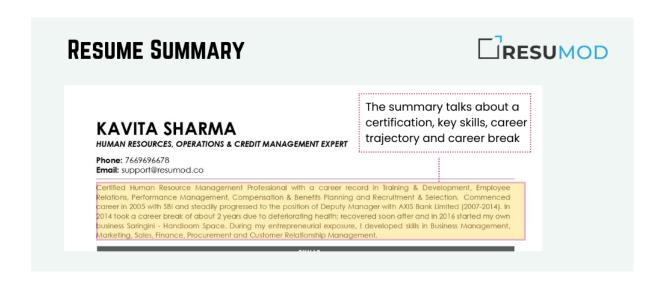
Brainstorm and identify what you want to convey through the summary:

- Is it any specific achievement?
- A stack of skills?
- A particular part of your career?

For a career break resume, a good combination is:

- · Your qualification if you have upskilled
- Your core competencies
- A brief of your previous experience

Pick your abilities that match the job description to create a summary. Talk about your soft skills as well.



# **CREATING SKILL SET SECTION**

Skills are talents or abilities you develop through academics, observance and practical application. Skills in your resume demonstrate your ability to perform a task. An ideal skill set section in your resume is a combination of hard and soft skills.

**Soft skills** also called transferable skills are characteristics that influence how you operate, both independently and together, in a workspace. Organizations look for employees that have strong transferable skills apart from the core skill set required for the job.

- People with a strong work ethic are more productive
- Collaboration and communication facilitate smooth operations
- Positive approach and initiative-taking mind-set supports growth



**Hard skills** are abilities that enable you to carry out specific activities. You acquire and develop hard skills through formal education, apprenticeships or internships, certification programs, and on-the-job training.

# **Step 1: Know Your Strengths**

Identify the hard skills you already have.

For instance, a history professor will have strong knowledge of the subject. They will also have abilities in handling students, research, lecture delivery among other skills.

# **Step 2: Check Job Requirements**

An ideal skill section is represents reflects your suitability for the given job role. Look at your target job description and check the keywords.

Focus more on hard or job-related skills. Do not miss the soft skills if they are the topmost priority in your job profile.

# Step 3: Evaluate your skills from career break

This is an additional step. List down the skills – both soft and hard – that you have acquired through courses, volunteering, maternity etc.

# **Step 4: Create a Skills Section**

Combine a list of 7-10 skills and your skill set section is ready.





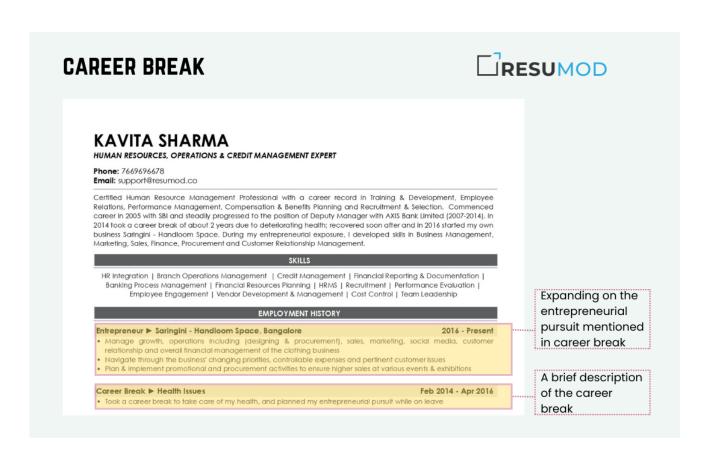
Employers identify thinking creativity (31%), time management (29%) and patience (29%) as the most valuable skills people <u>acquire during career breaks</u>, the LinkedIn study found. And 49% of hiring managers think that the biggest mistake candidates make when it comes to addressing a career break during the hiring process is trying to downplay the gap rather than highlight it as an asset.

# ADDRESSING THE CAREER BREAK

By now, you know you cannot skip the career break in your resume. Be prepared to talk about your gap and how you spent you time.

- Include your volunteer work
- Why you took the break
- How you utilised the break to be the professional game

Create a separate section that talks about the career break and how you utilised it.





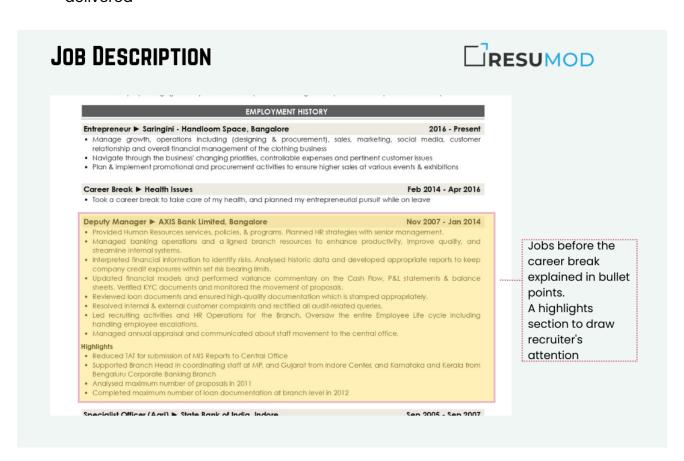
## WRITING JOB DESCRIPTIONS

You know what goes in here – details and job descriptions about your jobs before the career break.

- Job/Position Title
- Dates of employment
- Name of the employer and location
- Job description

# How to write a job description – Tips

- Use bullet points for explaining your work, start with an action verb and stay tothe-point
- Remove activities and tasks that won't add value to your present job
- Drop keywords through the job description to optimise if for the ATS
- Adopt an achievement focused approach, and use numbers to show the results delivered





# LISTING YOUR EDUCATION

A basic yet an important section. Your credentials are your lifetime assets and deserve space on your Resume.

An ideal education section includes:

- Name of the university
- Name of the course with specialization
- Grades or marks (optional)
- Certifications and licenses
- Year of graduation

How to create an education section:

- Start with writing the name of institution, course, and year of graduation
- Mention your academic awards and medals with the respective academic engagement
- Use reverse chronological order, and list the most recent or ongoing course first, followed by the older ones
- · Add details of any upskilling courses completed during or after your career break





# **SONALI GUPTA**

## SAP SCM/MM FUNCTIONAL CONSULTANT



#### PROFILE

SAP professional, with 3 years of experience in IT and Manufacturing Industry. Skilled at designing, implementing & deploying SAP solutions to achieve defined business goals. Proven record of designing, developing and delivering data warehouse and reporting solutions using SAP BW module. Possess sound knowledge of the business process and best practices to configure and integrate the SAP MM module with other functional modules.

#### S FDUCATION

Graduate Certificate in SAP Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, MI

SAP NetWeaver BI 7.0 Beyond Logics, Mumbai, India

**B.E (Computer Engineering)**University of Mumbai, Mumbai, India
2009

#### CORE COMPETENCIES

SAP MM

5. CAREER

**EXAMPLES** 

Turn to next page >>>

**GAP RESUME** 

SAD BL70

Technical Domain Knowledge

Business Domain Knowledge

Analysical Thinking & Decklary Caking

Onsite Management

Business Analysis

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Team Coordination

#### COURSES

SAP TERP10 - Business Foundation 8 Integration

SAP ERP 6.07, SAP Aug 2016

Oracle Certified Associate
Oct 2009

#### O Career Break + Skill Enhancement

#### Module Knowledge

- Defining Enterprise Structure and maintaining rebetween them
- Configuration and Maintenance of Master Data
- Configuration and Maintenance of Procurement Process
- · Customization and Maintenance of Inventory Managem

#### Courses

- SAP MM Course KC Consultancy | 2017
- Business Analyst Competency Development Program -2017

#### Maternity Break

 Took a maternity break and raised two kids. Learned empathy, compassion, patience, problem-solving and ti being a mother and homemaker.

#### EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

#### Bharat Limited SAP BI Consultant

Sep 2011 - Jul 2013 | Mumbai, India

- Analysed business requirements and functional spec create customized objects
- Modelled data and developed SAP BW system. Worked to define the BW data model.
- Customized data flow from Microsoft Excel files and S creating and activating customized BI objects
- Extracted, Transformed and Loaded (ETL) master data from SAP ECC 6.0 and flat files to SAP BW
   Scheduled and monitored Data Loads into SAP BW Sys
- use of Process Chains

  Worked on Bex Query Designer, Bex Analyzer, Bex We
- Analyzed and automated manual data load activities
- Coordinated with Business Users, Development Team a development of integrated SAP modules.

#### Programmer Analyst

#### Kale Consultants Ltd

Dec 2009 - Dec 2010 | Mumbai, India

- Gathered business requirements, and finalized specific design documents for the software program
- Supported SDLC including design, development, debugging of the software.
- Designed UI/UX for an in-house web application pr Accounting)
- Developed software, specifications and technical interfexecuted Data Change Request documents
- Performed Unit Testing on the customized solution to client requirements.
- Formulated Unit Test Logs to help the testing team with the production sandbox



# RESUME OF SAP SCM/MM CONSULTANT

Sonali is an SAP SCM/MM Consultant with experience in designing, building and implementing functional solutions supporting Material Management in SAP and integrating with other solutions. After working for 3 years, she took a maternity break. While taking care of her kids, she also upskilled herself and is now looking forward to a new role as an SAP Consultant using her resume made on Resumod.in.





# **RESUME OF HR, OPERATIONS & CREDIT MANAGEMENT EXPERT**

Kavita has dynamic experience in working across HR, Operations, and Credit Management. She has worked in established financial institutions in India and brought significant results in each of these areas. However, she took a career break for 2 years to take care of health and re-joined workforce as an entrepreneur. With her new resume, she wants to renter the corporate space and excel in areas of HR and Operations.

#### **KAVITA SHARMA**

**HUMAN RESOURCES, OPERATIONS & CREDIT MANAGEMENT EXPERT** 

**Phone:** 7669696678

Email: support@resumod.co

Certified Human Resource Management Professional with a career record in Training & Development, Employee Relations, Performance Management, Compensation & Benefits Planning and Recruitment & Selection. Commenced career in 2005 with SBI and steadily progressed to the position of Deputy Manager with AXIS Bank Limited (2007-2014). In 2014 took a career break of about 2 years due to deteriorating health; recovered soon after and in 2016 started my own business Saringini - Handloom Space. During my entrepreneurial exposure, I developed skills in Business Management, Marketing, Sales, Finance, Procurement and Customer Relationship Management.

#### SKILLS

HR Integration | Branch Operations Management | Credit Management | Financial Reporting & Documentation |
Banking Process Management | Financial Resources Planning | HRMS | Recruitment | Performance Evaluation |
Employee Engagement | Vendor Development & Management | Cost Control | Team Leadership

#### EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

#### Entrepreneur ▶ Saringini - Handloom Space, Bangalore

2016 - Present

- Manage growth, operations including (designing & procurement), sales, marketing, social media, customer relationship and overall financial management of the clothing business
- Navigate through the business' changing priorities, controllable expenses and pertinent customer issues
   Plan & implement promotional and procurement activities to ensure higher sales at various events & exhibitions

#### Career Break ► Health Issues

Feb 2014 - Apr 2016

• Took a career break to take care of my health, and planned my entrepreneurial pursuit while on leave

#### Deputy Manager ► AXIS Bank Limited, Bangalore

Nov 2007 - Jan 2014

- $\bullet \ \ \text{Provided Human Resources services, policies, \& programs. Planned HR strategies with senior management.}$
- Managed banking operations and a ligned branch resources to enhance productivity, improve quality, and streamline internal systems.
- Interpreted financial information to identify risks. Analysed historic data and developed appropriate reports to keep company credit exposures within set risk bearing limits.
   Updated financial models and performed variance commentary on the Cash Flow. P&L statements & balance
- sheets. Verified KYC documents and monitored the movement of proposals.
- Reviewed loan documents and ensured high-quality documentation which is stamped appropriately.
  Resolved internal & external customer complaints and rectified all audit-related queries.
- Led recruiting activities and HR Operations for the Branch. Oversaw the entire Employee Life cycle including handling employee escalations.
- Managed annual appraisal and communicated about staff movement to the central office.

#### Highlights

- Reduced TAT for submission of MIS Reports to Central Office
- Supported Branch Head in coordinating staff at MP, and Gujarat from Indore Center, and Karnataka and Kerala from Bengaluru Corporate Banking Branch
- Analysed maximum number of proposals in 2011
- Completed maximum number of loan documentation at branch level in 2012

Specialist Officer (Agri) ▶ State Bank of India, Indore

Sep 2005 - Sep 2007

EDUCATION	
M. Sc. (Plant Breeding & Genetics) ▶ JNKVV, Jabalpur	2008
B.Sc. (Agriculture) ► JNKVV	2004

CERTIFICATIONS

Human Resource Management Professional (CHRMP) at IAO



# **RESUME OF TECHNICAL SUPPORT & CUSTOMER SUCCESS MANAGER**

Deepti is a Technical Support Manager who is returning to a full-time role after a career break. Through her previous experience, she has acquired skills in attaining a high level of customer satisfaction, tracking active support tickets to ensure a quick turnaround, and reviewing product documentation. She is a keen problem-solver who is able to delegate tasks and make difficult decisions.



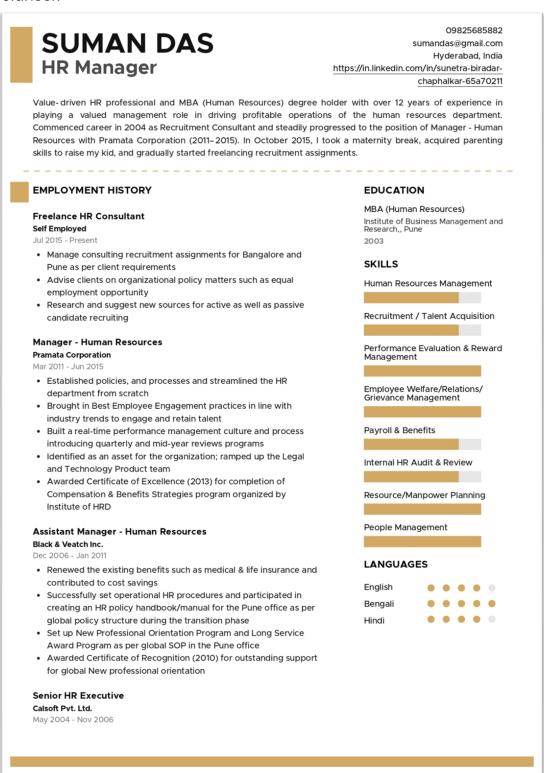


Team Lead - Technical Support -> Sterling Business India Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore

Jul 2005 - Mar 2011

# **RESUME OF HR MANAGER**

Suman is an award-winning HR professional with competencies in leading recruitment, performance reviews, wage reviews, disciplinary action, and learning and development. She is experienced in conflict resolution, disciplinary processes, and workplace investigations. She has been on a career break since 2015 and providing HR consultancy as a freelancer.





## **RESUME OF BUSINESS ANALYST & PROJECT COORDINATOR**

Ruchi resumed her career as a Business Analyst after a maternity break. She is proficient in ensuring that all project requirements, deadlines, and schedules are on track. She has proven experience in project management and the ability to lead project teams of various sizes. She has a natural analytical way of thinking and is able to explain difficult concepts to non-technical users.





# **RESUME OF BUSINESS ANALYST & PROJECT COORDINATOR**

# Page 2 of Ruchi's Resume

Stakeholder interviews for their insights on D&I at Volvo

• Facilitated 4 Focus Group Discussion sessions with 200 employees

Achievements: Negotiated with vendor and reduced the project cost by 14% and the cost of FGDs by 40%

#### Career Break

#### Professional Enhancements + Maternity + Child Care

Jun 2015 - May 2017

- Attended webinars on Business Analysis from Laura Brandenburg
- Attended Requirements Writing Course from University of New South Wales (UNSW) on Coursera

#### **Technical Recruiter iCST**

South Portland, USA

Mar 2012 - Dec 2012

#### Career Break

Nov 2007 - Apr 2012

#### IT Recruiter

Indiana IT Services Pvt Ltd, Hyderabad

Jun 2007 - Oct 2007

#### **HR Executive**

#### Accenture Solutions, Hyderabad

Oct 2005 - May 2007

#### **EDUCATION**

#### PGD PM/IR

Annamalai University

2006

#### Kakatiya University

**MBA** 2005

#### ВСА

#### Kakatiya University

2003

#### TECHNICAL

MS Office: Word, Excel (Charts and Pivot table), PowerPoint, Project | Visio | TFS | SharePoint Power User | SQL | UML | Access knowledge

# TRAINING/ COURSES SQL for Data Science

University of California

IT Project Management

ISB

Certified in Requirements Writing

UNSW, Australia



### **THAT'S IT!**

We hope you liked this e-Book and we hope it helps you build a strong and powerful resume ©

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# Resumod.in is an intelligent resume building tool that lets you build world-class resumes in minutes!



