

BOOK REVIEWS

activities of HBN provide such training to observe innovative practices in one's own surroundings. Stories discussed in these chapters also highlight the problems and challenges at the grassroots level. While the responses to the problems are innovations at the grassroots level, these are generally ignored by the formal sector due to apathy or realization of lack of market opportunities. The author suggests that we need to give extra care to the local-level problems and be empathetic to the works done by the local communities to solve them, along with attention to the unexplored creativity of the young minds. Thus, knowing, feeling and doing for the grassroots communities would be a new mantra for the sector.

The sixth chapter looks into concepts like 'grassroots innovations', 'frugal' and 'Jugaad' innovations. Despite differences, these concepts are often used interchangeably^{2,3}. The author also highlights the differences by looking into the formal and informal sectors, and acknowledges that grassroots innovations are more environment-friendly than the others. Further, he has problematized the comparison of grassroots innovations with the word jugaad as the latter has negative connotations too. Moreover, he explores several dimensions of frugality for grassroots innovations such as material, multifunctionality, repurposing and rejuvenation, flexibility and location-specific adaptability, availability, affordability and accessibility. He argues for a frugal lifestyle, which is not per se a new phenomenon, and many societies are practising it in one or the other way.

Chapter 7 reflects on various modes of resource mobilization, for instance, natu-

ral, social, ethical and intellectual capital for supporting the cause of grassroots innovations. The last chapter sums up the learning one can derive out of grassroots innovations. According to the author, these seem so insignificant or trivial that we tend to be ignorant about them in our routine life. However, if one pays a little attention, these minuscule and largely overlooked phenomena can be a great source of learning. This is the crucial message that the author echoes for his readers.

The book is a comprehensive yet lucid narrative of the knowledge and experiments by HBN with the marginalized people. Further, it highlights the interaction between the formal and informal sector entities, and its outcomes. However, from an academic perspective, drawing a connect between theory and practice could have made this narrative more interesting given the author's sound background in this field. Perhaps, the activist in the author played an influential role while documenting his journey. A theoretical model is all the more needed to capture the nuances of informal sector innovations, as the existing theories in the field of innovation studies are more relevant to the formal sector. In this context, the author could have surely made a noteworthy contribution. While he has highlighted the positive aspect of such innovations and experiments done by HBN, there are several cases of neglected and 'failed technologies' among grassroots innovations which should have also been discussed by him. Moreover, the book could have given more space to the works of female innovators. However, the author has explained his reasons for not doing so, and mentions one of HBN's new initiatives – the

'Ignite Award', to invite more entries from female innovators.

The book succeeds in substantiating the author's ideas and arguments by drawing support from real-life examples. He has also given some meaning to various ancient tales and sayings from the past by putting them in today's context, especially in the informal settings. The writing style is captive and readers will enjoy these narratives. In fact, many a time the reader feels like a fellow traveller with the innovators and having a face-to-face interaction with them. This book certainly deserves to be published in other regional languages to have a cross-sectional reach and spread the message of grassroots communities. The book will give more insights to researchers, policy-makers and individuals interested in this field of knowledge for understanding the informal sector innovations from a different perspective.

1. Bhaduri, S. and Kumar, H., *Mind Soc.*, 2011, **10**(1), 27–55; doi:10.1007/s11299-010-0081-2.
2. Kumar, H. and Bhaduri, S., *Afr. J. Sci., Technol. Innov. Dev.*, 2014, **6**(1), 13–22.
3. Sheikh, F. A., *Afr. J. Sci., Technol. Innov. Dev.*, 2012, **4**(4), 2012.

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Corrigendum

Indian Journal of History of Science. Thematic issue: Knowledge Production in Pre-Colonial India – Methodological Aspects

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Page 1762, 1st column, line 49, read as 'c 3000 BC' instead of 'c 300 BC'.

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