

Digital Medical Pendant

An Innovative Device to Track Medical History of a Person



Many a times it has been seen that a person gets sudden health problem or an unfortunate accident and requires emergency treatment, but he/she is not able to communicate the problem and his medical history including the information about chronic disease or acute reaction to certain medicines, if any. In such a situation

unknowingly applying medication to such persons may be fatal. Similarly in case of child immunization, there may be a possibility of missing of an immunization shot which could jeopardize his/her life or body organs. Particularly, in a country like India having diverse socio-economic, educational and geographical variations, it becomes challenging to ensure that every child has taken every shot of vaccination. Efforts have been made in different parts of the world to find innovative solutions to the above cited problems through technological interventions.

Quoll Digital Medical Pendant

One such an innovative initiative is making of a device called 'Quoll Digital Medical Pendant' developed by Mr. John Actifed while working with Australian Pharmacies. According to him this digital medical pendant can deliver peace of mind for users through medical security. The Quoll Digital Medical Pendant is basically seen as multipurpose scannable device having an electronic chip inside it.

The innovative features of the Quoll Digital Medical Pendant are as follows:

- The necessary information about a person's medical history required by a medical professional can be uploaded in seconds, anytime anywhere. The information can be uploaded and updated as often as necessary.
- The information uploaded in it, can be highly useful when a person requires emergency treatment, but he/she is not able to communicate in serious conditions like coma due to diabetes or strings, intolerance to prescribed medicines, acute reaction to certain drugs, heart conditions, and epileptic events etc.
- It can identify the specific medical issues of a person and can offer him clear directions on who to contact and what to avoid in a particular situation.
- Simple scan of the code on the flipside can display the life saving information uploaded in the pendant.

KB Pendant

A similar innovative attempt to bridge the gap of immunization has been made by the Khushi Baby (KB) team having members from India and US. They have developed a digital pendant carrying a baby's medical history and immunisation details.

Some of the innovative features of the KB Pendant are given below:

- It is water proof, digital, rewritable pendant having an electronic chip.
- Whenever required, a health worker can scan it and can view the details of baby's immunization and health record by using a smart phone.
- It can be used even in rural areas without electricity and internet connectivity.
- In order to increase its cultural adaptability in the society, the pendant has a black thread in it. The KB necklace uses a culturally appropriate wearable near field communication device integrated with a digital tracking system.
- It tracks the isolated rural community and thus

trying to bridge the gap in routine immunization through data management.

They have also developed a mobile app, which would show the health status and record of vaccination. Using this mobile app, a health worker can also update the current status of vaccination of the child, including the information about the missed vaccine, if any. As per an article published in the Times of India dated August 8, 2016, from April to August, 2016 more than 200 babies had been using the KB pendant systems in Rajasthan.

It is hoped that this type of innovative digital devices will have multipurpose applications useful for the people. We need to be sensitive to the local problems and find out such innovative and cost effective products and services.

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Book Review

Title: **Fostering Innovations in Students.**

Author: Vigyan Ratna Lakshman Prasad.

Publisher: Prabhat Prakashan, 4/19, Asaf ali Road, New Delhi-110002

Edition: first, 2016; No. of pages:112

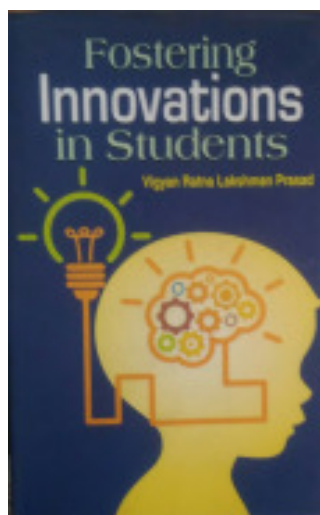
Hard bound, Price Rs. 200.

The book under review is an introduction to the subject of innovation written in simple language in question-answer form. It is a result of interaction of the author with lakhs of students of different age groups, sex, social cultural million and educational levels. The author has tried to answer the various questions related to innovation frequently raised by the students during those interactions.

The book is divided into 18 lessons, each dealing with a new aspect of innovation covering from process of innovation to information about patents and commercialization.

The author is of the firm mind that:

- The seeds of innovation should be sown in young minds and our schools (even the primary schools) should serve as incubation Centre for innovations.
- An innovation does not necessarily require any background education or socio economic background or system it support, an urge to innovate is enough for innovation.
- An innovative idea itself is important and it should be conserved until it is developed into a sellable product.



- Once the prototype of commercially viable product is developed, the Government support for its Commercialization must be available.

The book is made more student friendly by dispersing quotes from famous, recent, Indian innovators and adding an exercise at the end of each chapter. However, points to ponder could have been much more thought provoking.

The book is written by a real-time innovator who has more than 20 patents in his name and using his earnings for philanthropic work so it has glimpses of his long experience. I am sure the books will be noticed and appreciated by the workers engaged in the field of innovation.

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“Innovation is an evolutionary process, so it's not necessary to be radical all the time.”

- Marc Jacobs