

BOOK REVIEWS

charts support the text. Herein lies the strength of these two volumes.

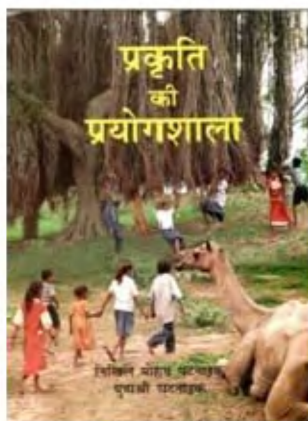
The conventional approach of presenting stratigraphy in terms of its sequence, lithology, life and broad correlation has been adopted. As pointed out earlier, new data of the past few decades have been synthesized and supported by suitable charts, maps and stratigraphic logs. Stratigraphic synthesis usually feeds into palaeogeographic and palaeotectonic reconstructions in a geochronological framework. Also, stratigraphic synthesis helps in the development of new insights that facilitate and enable the framing of new questions. This aspect, which should have been the highlight of such a volume, has been underemphasized and needs to be addressed in future editions.

Stratigraphy has to be suitably supported by multidisciplinary (structural, petrological, geochemical, sedimentological, palaeontological and geo-chronological) datasets. It is also not uncommon that synthesis of these datasets leads to the recognition of a lack of convergence in the results. Several examples of such diverging results exist, and efforts ought to have been directed in this book to illustrate examples of how the re-evaluation of conflicting datasets leads to the resolution of stratigraphic problems related to the geology of India. Such specific case-histories highlighting debatable issues help in developing critical thinking amongst the postgraduate students.

This two-volume book fulfils a long felt need – that of a well-suited textbook for postgraduate courses in geosciences in the subject area of stratigraphy. With the growing incorporation of modern approaches in stratigraphic analysis, at a global scale, it is of some importance that accounts of the geology of India are increasingly based on new multi-disciplinary data. Such an approach will also be of immense value for the integration of the regional geology of India with that of the South, South East Asian, and Asia-Pacific region. In conclusion, it is hoped that these issues will receive the attention of the authors in subsequent editions of the book.

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Prakriti Ki Prayogshala (in Hindi). Nikhil Mohan Patnayak and Pushpshri Patnayak. Vigyan Prasara, A-50, Institutional Area, Sector-62, Noida 201 307. 2008. 119 pp. Price: Rs 85.

This book is a Hindi translation of the original book *Exploring Nature* in English. It has been translated and edited by B. K. Tyagi, Anurag Sharma and Navneet K. Gupta. This little treatise supplements the school education about nature, by training students in an informal setting.

The book contains several interesting and exciting easy-to-do experiments. These experiments explicitly explain the various complicated concepts and phenomena of nature to students and inspire them to love and explore nature and its constituents. For middle-school students and their teachers, it is a resource book of simple activities aimed at learning nature in a play-way manner.

Nature is all fascinating and is calling us to be a part of it by coming out of the concrete jungles. In fact, we are an integral part of nature and our survival is dependent on it.

The easy-to-do experiments in the book are able to inculcate scientific reasoning, thinking and scientific temper among the students while boosting their creativity and imagination through participation, direct observations and drawing inferences.

The book is a motivational tool that can transform the young minds as nature lovers through exploration, inquiry and learning about nature by do-yourself activities; thus nurturing the future conservators of nature.

The authors have succeeded in explaining the various complicated natural things and phenomena in a simple and lucid language which an average student can understand. The illustrations by Brij Kishore Jain are good; the simple line drawings make the experiments easier for the students.

The most important fact about this book, which I liked, is that no expensive and sophisticated materials and apparatus are required to conduct such experiments. Rather, it uses materials which are inexpensive and easily available at home and in the neighbourhood. This makes the scientific pursuit and experiments affordable to the poor students. As the book is well-written in simple Hindi, it is best suited to the students of Hindi-medium education or anyone who is comfortable with Hindi.

The experiments described in the book can be done by students individually or in a group, with or without the help of a teacher. These do not need any sophisticated laboratory or apparatus, but an inquisitive and creative mind to make the best out of what is easily available at home.

The book is certainly a treasure of knowledge about nature for the young minds and is worth reading for every middle or high-school student.

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