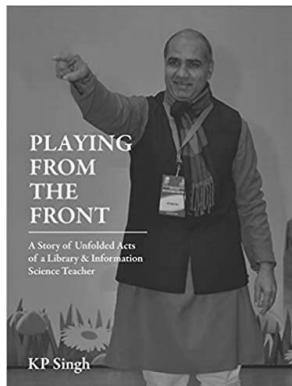


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Book Review



Singh, K.P. Playing From The Front: A Story of Unfolded Acts of a Library & Information Science Teacher Hardcove. New Delhi: AKS Publishing House, 2020, 355 pages, ISBN 978-81-946468-4-6.

Manish Kumar*

Abstract

This book primarily personified the diversified academic, research and professional developmental activities undertaken by the author while working on various capacities and platforms. The distinctive presentation of thought contents in the domain of library and information science, education, research and management will inspire, aspire and motivate the knowledge workers, educationists, scientists, managers, policy-makers, thinkers and researchers to think out of the box and work differently especially in adverse environment. Throughout the chapters author shared his rich personal and professional experiences gained while working in

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various segments which are supported by exemplary instances with appropriate pictorial presentations. The Author believes that his painstaking task in completion of this distinctive style of monograph will be found worthwhile when the prospective readers find this book useful and bring positive changes about in their personal thinking and implementing the change in their professional career.

Keywords: library science, managers, career, knowledge workers.

Preface

The monograph is an epitome of incessant struggle and efforts of a multifaceted personality who diligently aimed for promotion and development of library profession. It is the efflorescence of unsung saga of ordeals, challenges and impediments faced and experienced by a professional, whose metamorphosis from a practicing librarian to a teacher, then activist, mentor, unmatched leader and manager carved the golden future of pious service-oriented library profession. The author experienced a sharp pang of downfall of library profession, the impediments and personal convictions which have severely affected the profession and absence of true professionals and torch bearers. Indeed, each chapter reflects the pains, sorrow, hardship, impediments, struggle, workmanship of an honest, dedicated, committed and a true professional warrior who felt the responsibility and clandestinely craved and tirelessly worked day and night for the profession's promotion, development and restoring of its golden glory.

Each chapter is a compendium of memories, knowledge and the efforts put in with selfless service, pious impetus with collective amicable relations to justify the nature, role and importance of libraries in present knowledge society. The unique title of each chapter reflects the life journey of author, his observation and experience of ups and downs of professional voyage, his mission and vision of profession resurrection. The chapters entitled "Renaissance and Resurrection of LIS Department: Incredible Indelible Trajectory", "Shaping of Knowledge and Wisdom through Lectures: Making New Learners more Informed and Matured to Lead Profession in Future", "Celebrations of the 72nd Annual Day Function 2018", "Breaking Himalaya's Iceland: Making impossible to possible First Alumni Meet 2020", "Work Addiction: Creation of a Seminar Hall", "Smarpith Pooja Towards the Profession: A Successful Venture of Academic Excellence through Conferences", "Revitalizing the past Glory: Organization of Refresher and Orientation Courses", "As a Guru: Promoting and Sharing through Invited Talks", "Master's Role of a Master in Delhi Library Association", and "God's Karamfal: Basket of Awards and incredible recognition" imbibes incredible thoughts, content, experiences and essence. The chapters are not simply texts as they depict the professional journey of author's sufferings, challenges, personal traits, organizational skills and attributes of leadership accomplishing the arduous tasks with ease and commitment.

Further, the five appendices and indexes are succor to retrieve the information in a hasty manner. Incredibly, the organization of thousands of photographs and pictures through "IMAGE INDEX" is an immemorial glimpse of professional sojourns; small and big achievements; fall and rise of feelings, emotions, efforts; professional endeavours and unfinished tasks; personal and collective accomplishments; help and strength of friends and lessons to learn from foes; which unfolds the tedious, daunting and surreal journey from dusk to dawn. This out of the box idea is unique and unimaginable which presents a documentary of a professional voyage.

The foreword penned down by the Hon'ble Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' ji, the Minister of Human Resource Development , is indeed a testimony of the classic work, one of its kind, inquisitive to be read.

This well-illustrated book is in a lucid language. Being easy to read and comprehend, It is a masterpiece and surely could be an inspirational source for all professionals to struggle and strive for excellence. The book infuses zeal and zest and invokes professional ethics with call of the duty to devote and dedicate our energy, efforts, hard work to repay the debts to professional excellence.