



What if frugal innovation from marginalised economies redefined global development?

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Innovation Beyond Borders

Within Reach

Transitional

Visionary

UNCERTAINTIES

Collaboration, Technology

MEGATREND (Most significant)Borderless World
– Fluid Economies**TRENDS**Community-Based Solutions
Cross-Sectoral Partnerships
Mobilising Innovation**TECHNOLOGIES**Advanced Connectivity
Data Protection & Privacy**SECTORS IMPACTED**

All Sectors

KEYWORDSFrugal Innovation
Global Development
Innovation Hubs
Resource Constraints
Sustainable Adaptation

Local innovation hubs connected to global networks scale innovations from economically marginalised communities worldwide, enabling local ingenuity to inspire worldwide sustainable development.





WHY IT MATTERS TODAY

While traditional approaches to aid have contributed to global development, there are opportunities to enhance outcomes. Only 49% of World Bank development projects were rated as satisfactory or higher in achieving their development objectives.¹¹⁹⁴ While calls to rethink economics, progress and innovations aim at addressing global challenges, they may overlook the resource constraints and infrastructural shortages of marginalised communities.¹¹⁹⁵ The results may remain inaccessible to poorer nations and groups,¹¹⁹⁶ risking them falling further behind.

Economically marginalised communities have a track record of generating sustainable and resource-efficient solutions. Faced with resource constraints, these communities often innovate within tight boundaries, showcasing their adaptability and inventiveness.¹¹⁹⁷ For example, a clay fridge in India keeps food fresh for days using evaporative cooling, requiring no electricity.¹¹⁹⁸ Low-income countries on the frontlines of climate impacts are generating locally led solutions that can empower communities to shape and drive responses.¹¹⁹⁹

Complex global challenges disproportionately affect poor communities, yet they are not part of the solution. Findings from the 160 countries covered by the Sendai Framework Monitor suggest that the lowest-income countries account for 26.6% of globally reported disaster mortality despite making up only 12.1% of the population.¹²⁰⁰ However, they are often excluded from key decision-making processes, with one study finding that only 22 of 374 climate adaptation projects featured a locally led approach.¹²⁰¹ In addition, the recent (2023) growth in patent filings from Ethiopia (28.1%), India (17.2%) and Indonesia (5.9%)¹²⁰² highlights untapped innovation potential.





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THE OPPORTUNITY



BENEFITS

Empowerment of marginalised communities; global collaboration; reduced inequality; increased diversity in problem-solving efforts; purpose-driven innovation; increased global resilience to challenges.



RISKS

Exploitation of local innovators; uneven community development; widening digital divides; intellectual property disputes.

Local innovation hubs are connected to global networks through digital platforms, enabling people to share ideas, learn from one another, and collaboratively optimise solutions for scalability worldwide. These hubs identify frugal innovations from economically marginalised communities, bringing their solutions to the world and inspiring worldwide applications. Advanced communication technologies facilitate knowledge sharing, while unique collaborative patents are designed to generate income for marginalised communities.

Innovative partnerships with governments, international non-governmental organisations (NGOs), academia, and the private sector provide essential resources and networks. Locally governed hubs focus on local and regional challenges while contributing to global goals, ensuring that frugal innovation supports sustainable development and transforms how we address complex problems.

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