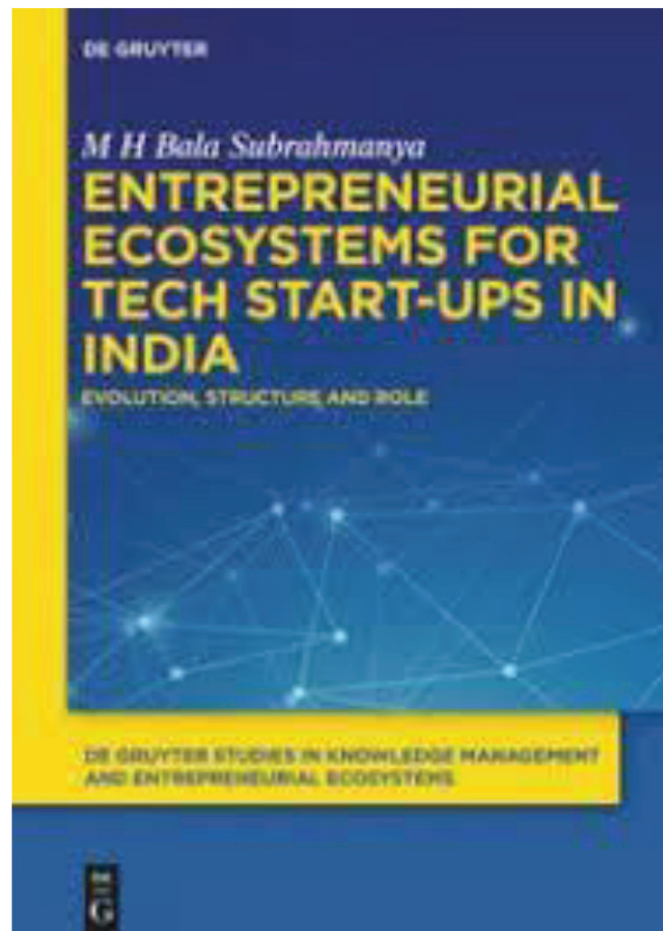


Entrepreneurial Ecosystems for Tech Start-ups in India: Evolution, Structure and Role



Entrepreneurial Ecosystems for Tech Start-ups in India: Evolution, Structure and Role, by M H Bala Subrahmanya; De Gruyter, Germany, 2021; Hardcover, 164 pages, ISBN: 9783110679298, DOI: 10.1515/9783110679359.

The 21st century has been a witness to unprecedented tectonic technology shifts in the world and the emergence of new global challenges impacting all countries across the world in different capacities. These developments have forced countries around the world to strategize their available resources to derive innovative solutions in response to these challenges, leading to long-term value creation and growth of their economies. The economies world over have focused on creating,

nurturing, and promoting regional innovation systems (RIS) to address these challenges. Technology start-ups and entrepreneurial ecosystems that nurture them are an important and critical element of the responses formulated by the regional governments that have successfully led the innovation-based growth of their economies.^[1] While tech start-ups introduce new knowledge-intensive products and services to the market and accelerate the rate of structural change in the economy, the entrepreneurial ecosystems provide a congenial support system to enable the growth of these start-ups by orchestrating the different elements such as customers, financiers, mentors, and incubators.^[2]

The impact and influence of the entrepreneurial ecosystem on the start-up lifecycle have been explored in prior lit-

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erature in the context of developed economies.^[3] However, there is a dearth of knowledge on the role, characteristics, and structure of these ecosystems in the context of emerging economies such as India, which is now recognized being among the top three start-up ecosystems in the world.^[4] It is in this context, the book exploring all the relevant aspects of entrepreneurial ecosystems in the Indian context is both timely and resourceful to academicians and practitioners. This book is the first among the De Gruyter Studies in Knowledge Management and Entrepreneurial Ecosystems series. It is organized across eight chapters.

In the first chapter, the background and context for the pursuit of the study are explained in detail. The concepts and definitions of technology entrepreneurship, distinctions between start-ups, technology, and high-tech start-ups are brought out clearly. Further, the prevailing knowledge and definitions of the entrepreneurial ecosystems are introduced to the reader, paving way for the description of the objectives that are pursued in the book. The research objectives addressed in the book are to understand the structure and components of the entrepreneurial ecosystem for tech-start-ups prevalent in India; to explore what would constitute an ideal entrepreneurial ecosystem feasible in the Indian context, and to evaluate the adequacy of the existing ecosystems relative to the feasible ideal entrepreneurial ecosystem for promotion of tech start-ups.

In the second chapter, a detailed review of literature on entrepreneurial ecosystems for start-ups is presented. The role and importance of the entrepreneurial ecosystem for start-ups to the economy, the structure, and major components of the entrepreneurial ecosystem are identified by way of a systematic literature review. Further, a synthesis of how the major components of the entrepreneurial ecosystem interact with each other is described in detail, paving the way to the identification of research gaps and articulation of the need for pursuing the study. Chapter 3 details the research process carried out for the study including the identification of research objectives, the scope of the study, and the research methodology adopted to examine the stated objectives of the study.

Chapters 4 to 7 form the core of the book, with each chapter examining one of the identified research questions through rigorous empirical methods. In Chapter 4, the characteristics, structure, and components of an ideal entrepreneurial ecosystem are arrived at, to set a baseline for comparison with the actual / existing entrepreneurial ecosystem. This is achieved through the usage of the Delphi technique, a method of analysis where experts provide their opinions on the topics of examination, and a consensus is reached over several iterations of conversations and inputs from them. Chapter 5 provides an account of the evolution of currently prevailing entrepreneurial ecosystems in Bangalore and Hyderabad, the two regions identified for the study, using a phase-based timeline starting from India's

independence in 1947. This chapter stands out for its authentic, fact-based, and accurate documentation of all the key circumstances contributing to the development of the study area over the past seven decades.

Chapter 6 builds on the foundation set by previous chapters and provides the readers with a comparative perspective of the two ecosystems. Specifically, the structure and components of the entrepreneurial ecosystems as they exist currently in Bangalore and Hyderabad, the unique role played by each of these components in the context of the region are presented with empirical evidence in this chapter. The explanation of interlinkages of the start-up lifecycle with the components of the entrepreneurial ecosystem supported with examples of how, why and when each of the identified components become critical to nurture the start-ups is the key highlight of this chapter.

Chapter 7 explores the above aspects using quantitative statistical analysis techniques. An empirical analysis comparing the ideal ecosystem and the currently existing ecosystems in Bangalore and Hyderabad is presented, to begin with. The results of the analysis are used to explain the similarities and dissimilarities prevalent in the corresponding entrepreneurial ecosystems with respect to the respective ideal entrepreneurial ecosystems. Further, an analysis of factors contributing to these gaps is carried out for both the regions, and actionable inferences are drawn from the above analyses. The results bring out the need to have the proper building blocks of education and research institutions, the prevalence of mature markets supplemented by a conducive culture that supports effective interactions for the emergence and growth of an impactful entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Chapter 8 summarizes all the facets of the study and outlines the key implications to the research and practitioner community. The study provides the framework, methodology, and process to examine and baseline the current state of the entrepreneurial ecosystem prevailing in the country. Based on the application of the above methodology and process for Bangalore and Hyderabad, it has recommended key policy changes to fill the gaps that are identified between the ideal and the currently prevailing entrepreneurial ecosystems. In summary, the book serves as an effective reference to academicians, policymakers, and practitioners that are connected with the entrepreneurial ecosystem of the country. The insights provided in the book indicate the need for collective and synchronized actions from all stakeholders of the entrepreneurial ecosystem to enable a more significant contribution to the Indian economy.

To summarize, this book provides a detailed overview of why and how tech start-ups emerge in developing economies. Taking India as a case for developing economy, it defines an ideal entrepreneurial ecosystem for the Indian context. Keeping

this as a reference, it examines the role of entrepreneurial ecosystems of Bangalore and Hyderabad – the country's two thriving start-up hubs. The book identifies the gaps that prevail concerning the ideal ecosystem in both of these start-up hubs and provides recommendations to bridge the same. This effort from the author is timely, covers all aspects related to the entrepreneurial ecosystem in sufficient detail, successfully examining all the objectives and key topics outlined in the book.

From a forward-looking perspective, an analysis of all tech start-up hubs in the country using the same framework adapted in the book would have provided a holistic, integrated, and much more complete perspective of the current situation prevailing in India as a whole. The policymakers, academics,

students, participants of the entrepreneurial ecosystem such as mentors, angel investors, and venture capitalists, executives from multi-national companies will all benefit from the insights available from this book.

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