NECESSITY is the mother of innovation. Grassroots innovations are necessity-led and have the capability to enhance the social and economic well-being.

One such innovation is by Dhanurjaya Dehury, a class VIII tribal student of Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences, Odisha, who has developed a vegetable-cutting machine. Dhanurjaya Dehury belongs to Koida locality in Sundargarh district of Odisha. The idea of developing a vegetable-cutting machine germinated in his mind when he realised that chopping the vegetables is a time-taking process.

His elder cousin is a tailor by profession who used to get late for work in the process of chopping vegetables. To overcome this challenge, Dhanurjaya simply replaced the needle of the sewing machine with a knife or cutter converting a normal sewing machine into a pedal-operated vegetable-cutting machine.

Dhanurjaya’s pedal-operated vegetable-cutting machine is cost-effective, time-efficient and minimises labour. The machine can be helpful to those who prepare large amounts of food on a daily basis.

For his creativity and innovation, Dhanurjaya Dehury, an eighth class student, was awarded at the Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam IGNITE Award 2016 organised by the National Innovation Foundation (NIF). The awards are given away every year to promote creativity and originality among children.

The National Innovation Foundation is an autonomous body of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India. NIF supports grassroots innovators and has been actively engaged in promoting creativity and innovation in the society.

Generally, shoulder arm slings are recommended by doctors when a person undergoes surgery or injures his or her arm. Arm slings provide support to a fractured hand. The shoulder arm slings are meant to give comfort but sometimes cause discomfort in the neck and shoulder region if used for a long time.

This is what happened with Adi who wore the cast and the sling for a long time to support his fractured hand. This was the time when he thought of developing a support that could be worn around his waist to provide comfort to the fractured arm. And this idea gave birth to the waist-worn appendage with which a broken arm would no longer be a pain in the neck or the shoulder. Adi Kumar has set an example for many to shape their creativities.

PAIN and discomfort in his left shoulder carrying the weight of a cast and a sling together spurred ten-year-old Adi Kumar from Belgaum, Karnataka, to develop a waist-worn appendage that can support the fractured arm instead of a sling. He had suffered a fracture in his arm and had to bear a lot of pain.

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