



INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY GUWAHATI
SHORT ABSTRACT OF THESIS

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SHORT ABSTRACT

The thesis endeavours to provide a nuanced examination of the evolution of brick manufacturing processes alongside the technological transformations that unfolded in Karnataka, with particular emphasis on the city of Bangalore and its peri-urban landscapes throughout the circa 20th CE before present. The objective of such exercise is to analyse the transition from traditional manual casting of bricks to more mechanized approaches within the Karnataka brick industry. Structuring this study with a blend of theoretical frameworks and scientific profiling of data, the study seeks to offer a comprehensive understanding of this transformation and its far-reaching implications.

The study presents a thorough analysis of historical and modern developments of brick castings by focusing on the practices of local artisans, and then moves onto detecting their skills, firing techniques and culturally mediated traditional practices that have been instrumental in the shaping of brick production in Karnataka. The analysis further contributes to our understanding of how the interplay between ‘tradition’ and ‘modernity’ has shaped brickmaking practices. By addressing the historical and sociological dimensions of the craft alongside intricate technical details, this multilayered approach seeks to enhance the discourses surrounding technological transitions. It aims to illuminate the interconnectedness between technological innovations and evolving social framework, reinforcing the notion that technology is ‘not’ unmediated by economy, culture and polity.