



N. S. PHADKI

SEX PROBLEM IN INDIA

*Being a Plea for a Eugenic Movement
in India and a Study of all
Theoretical and Practical
Questions Pertaining
to Eugenics.*

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WITH A FOREWORD

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FOREWORD.

In this book, "Sex Problems in India," Prof. Phadke treats the various problems in the light of modern practical science. His chapter on "The Vindication of Birth Control" is especially sound and clearly stated.

The plea which the author makes for Eugenic Marriages is the plea of the far sighted patriot, whose desire is that the country of his allegiance shall grow strong on sound biological principles.

There is knowledge in the world to-day, which if placed at the disposal of the people for their guidance, would help to eliminate some of the most persistent social evils of this country. Many of these evils keep cropping up generation after generation, while efforts to deal with them, especially in Europe and America, are mainly palliative. I refer to infant mortality, child labor, maternal mortality, and other problems arising out of the increasing hordes of inert, unfit multitudes being born into the world every year.

In the western countries where the effort to solve such problems by legislative methods has practically failed, we have had to resort to a large expenditure to keep alive those very types whose multiplication causes disgenic conditions. Our hospitals, as well as institutions for the feeble minded and insane, are overcrowded. The cost of maintaining these institutions casts a tremen-

dous burden upon the normal person. This lessens the ability of the healthy normal classes to rear larger families, with the consequence that the birth rate is of so differential a character that it constitutes a problem and in some countries it has become an alarming factor. The future of western civilization is threatened by this stupendous error.

This is only one angle of the social side of birth control. There is another which is also treated by the author in a masterly fashion. That of the individual woman. He asks that marriage shall be based on love and affection. That it shall be consummated only after maturity. That children shall be born to parents only when there is that development of the body and mind which modern students of psychology claim is necessary for the parents as well as essential to the well being of the child born.

A country cannot keep pace in the world to-day when its population is bowed down by large families, misery and poverty.

A nation ignoring the researches advanced by modern science, relentlessly holding to customs outworn and proven inadequate, cannot claim equal recognition with those countries which have left behind them outworn dogma and mediaeval superstitions.

The Sex Problems in India are doubtless much the same fundamentally as the problems of other countries. But in the occident an effort is being made to solve such problems fearlessly and honestly.

Prof. Phadke has undertaken this task for India. I heartily recommend his book to those who are seeking guidance along these lines.

GENEVA, *2nd May, 1927.*

MARGARET SANGER.

AUTHOR'S NOTE.

It is H. G. Wells, I believe, who observes that the origin of all loves and hates is indefinite. I cannot say, even to myself, when I fell in love with the charming subject of Eugenics. I can only say that, once in love with it, I read all sorts of books, and found myself gradually preparing material for an independent essay. The present book is the finished form of that material. None can be more conscious than myself of its imperfections. My only apology for inflicting it on the public is that, so far as I know, it is the first book of its kind in India. The book aims neither at thoroughness of treatment, nor at finality of opinions. My motive is to furnish the reader with some material to think about, rather than to do the thinking for him. Of course, being a propagandist by temperament, I have given pointed expression to my views on every question that arose in the discussion of the subject matter.† But nothing is further from my mind than the insistence that the reader must leave my views unchallenged. A great Eugenic movement is sweeping over the world, and the idealists of every nation must try to interpret it in the light of their peculiar traditions and thereby make a contribution to the world thought. I have endeavoured to do this, though it was properly a task for greater intellects and abler pens. I wonder how far I have been successful.

My aim at least has been to provoke in every thoughtful Indian a sincere desire to adopt the Eugenic attitude in life, and to produce a book which points continuously outwards to the larger life of speculative thought and fearless action which characterise the world of to-day.

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N. S. PHADKE.

CONTENTS.

	Page.
FOREWORD.—By Margaret Sanger. ..	i
AUTHOR'S NOTE	v
CONTENTS	vii
CHAPTER I.—Introductory. ..	1
CHAPTER II.—The Theory of Heredity. ..	27
Importance of Heredity—the layman's appreciation of it—Transmission and Variation—Spencer's Views—Darwin's theory—Galton's new conclusions—Wize-mann's support—An insoluble difficulty—Evidence collected by Galton—Some interesting tables—The pith of the theory.	
CHAPTER III.—The Mother of the Race. ..	49
The greater importance of the mother in the reproductive act—The pitiable state of women in India—The clear evidence of figures—Marriage, the basic phenomenon.	
CHAPTER IV.—The Institution of Marriage. ..	58
Marriage defined—How the institution first arose—Its growth and varying forms—A significant idea.	

Page.

CHAPTER V.—Our Present Marriage Custom. 67

The religion-ridden marriage—Early Marriage, a stroke of the axe at the root of Eugenics—The countless evils of early marriage—The unfounded belief that early marriage alone is sanctioned by the Shāstrās—The real interpretation of the ancient tenets—No injunction against late marriage—Its approval—How early marriage came to be practised—Our present duty.

CHAPTER VI.—The Way of Reform. 91

The acceptance of Eugenics by the ancient Āryans as the motive of marriage—Opinion of Western thinkers—The ideal system of marriage—The rankling defects in the present form—Early Marriage—Undeserved recognition of Astrology—The Dowry custom—Urgent need of Late Marriages—The verdict of Medical Science—Wrong ideas of parental responsibility—The best age for marriage—Late Marriages, the only remedy against the threefold evil—Love Marriage—No scientific basis for Gotra and similar restrictions—The revival of ancient culture.

	Page.
CHAPTER VII.—Fruits of Marriage. ..	186
<p>What after marriage?—Our ancient Law-givers and Birth Control—Those times and our times—The all--round degeneration of the present—The fulfilment of the true motive of marriage.</p>	
CHAPTER VIII.—The Need of Birth Control.	146
<p>A striking contrast—The evils of unlimited procreation—Rubin's Law—The inverse ratio of the birth rate and capacity for survival—The interdependence of the birth rate and death rate—The conclusions of Malthus—Their truth—Their lesson.</p>	
CHAPTER IX.—Vindication of Birth Control.	161
<p>Experiments in Birth Control—Their lessons—The fatalistic objection—The objection of unnaturalness—Is it a sacrilege?</p>	
CHAPTER X.—Continnence as a Birth Control Method.	175
<p>The search for ways and means—The views of Malthus—Ideas of the ancient Aryans—Universal desire for the limitation of progeny—Guidance from the Smritis and medical treatises of the Aryans—The benefits of continence—Can it serve as a practicable and popular method of birth control?—Some important questions.</p>	

	Page.
CHAPTER XIV.—Eugenic Education ..	266
The nature of Eugenic education—General ignorance of sex matters—Obscurantism—Its effects—Brutal blindness—Importance of the knowledge of physiology—Stages of physiological instruction.	
CHAPTER XV.—Elimination of Unfit Parenthood.	276
Negative Eugenic programme—The question of unfit parents—Will they consent to be total abstainers?—Sterilization—Who are the “Unfit”—The proportion of the “Unfit” in our society—They must be induced not to marry—Enlightened self-denial the better way than legal coercion.	
CHAPTER XVI.—Higher Living	290
Importance of environment—The close relation of productivity with environments—The natural law regarding nervous energy—Nervous energy and strength—Effect of food and climate on nervous energy—The line of reform—The revival of rural life—Sexual cleanliness—The vow of faithfulness—The reform of education—Restrained social intercourse between men and women—Its evil effects—The need of radical change.	