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India,

## PREFACE

It is a matter of great satisfaction that the Union Ministry of Education is issuing this brochure dealing with one of the most important aspects of Education in the country. I was entrusted with writing it perhaps because I am connected with the only women's university in the country as its vice-chancellor. I consider this a privilege and hope my effort will be of some use to the readers and give them an idea of the present position of women's education in the land of Mahatma Gandhi.

A number of studies on problems connected with this subject have been undertaken at both governmental and non-governmental levels and specially by the National Council of Women's Education which is the body set up by the Union Government guiding policies and programmes in the field. I am indebted to various official reports and publications as also to the vast literature on the subject by a number of authors who have made it richer by their contributions. For the guidance of those who may like to go deeper into the subject, I would recommend a few selected books and reports that have been listed in *Appendix III* of this brochure.

While preparing this brochure I have tried to show the magnitude of the problem of women's education as it faces the country and the various issues arising out of it. The background of this will be found in the period of the last one and a half century.

To heighten the narrative part, a graphic survey of girls' and women's education in comparison to that of boys and men, beginning from the early years of this century, going right up to the present day has been included as an appendix (*Appendix IV*).

The Education Commission (1964-66) set up by the Government of India undertook a detailed study of the entire problem of education in India and women's education v one of the important subjects referred to it for considera

Any publication on Indian education in the post-Commission period can hardly ignore the Commission's views and recommendations. For these have immense value in making up the leeway and furthering women's education in the country, like its recommendations in the other sectors of our educational development. Naturally, therefore, they have not been lost sight of in this brochure. While they have been referred to in the body of the brochure in the appropriate context, for the inquisitive readers, all of them have been included, but briefly, in an appendix to it (*Appendix II*).

For the inquisitive readers, we have also appended (*Appendix I*) a short paper on the progress of girl's/women's education in a few representative countries of the world—both developed and developing—including ours, against the background of the general educational system of those countries. If not anything else, this will help us to make an appraisal of our present position and embolden us to forge further ahead.

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