

PRIMARY EDUCATION IN INDIA
SUGGESTIONS FOR ITS IMPROVEMENT
AND EXPANSION

BY

DINKAR D. DESAI, M.A., LL.B.

Member, Servants of India Society

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“ Even if the advantages of an elementary education be put no higher than a capacity to read and write, its universal diffusion is a matter of prime importance, for literacy is better than illiteracy any day, and the banishment of a whole people’s illiteracy is no mean achievement. ”

G. K. Gokhale

“ A State which fails to offer an equal level of educational opportunity to its citizens is penalising the poor for the benefit of the rich. There cannot be a responsible State until there is an educated electorate. ”

Harold J. Laski

PREFACE

The aim of these chapters is firstly to take a survey of the present system of primary education in British India from the point of view of the toiling masses, secondly to show the defects in the system and how to remove them, and thirdly to suggest a practical scheme of compulsory mass education. To the masses the school is not a luxury that may be limited in a fit of economy, but a necessity that can be starved only at the national peril.

The booklet was originally written as a Paper submitted to the Servants of India Society in June 1938. The Council of the Society having decided to publish the Paper, it is now being presented to the public for what it is worth.

My thanks are due to my esteemed friend Mr. R. V. Parulekar, Secretary, Schools Committee, Bombay Municipality, for kindly going through the manuscript and making valuable suggestions.

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Girgaum, Bombay.
November, 1938.*

DINKAR DESAI

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