

Statement....I

The present study entitled 'Education of the Depressed Classes in India during the British Period', is an original work tracing the historical development of education in India with special reference to the Depressed Classes. The facts discovered bring to light the various factors-educational, social and political, which contributed to the development of education among the Depressed Classes. The findings of the study have their implications for the perspective educational planning for these classes.

Statement....II

The main findings of the present study entitled 'Education of the Depressed Classes in India during the British Period', are the following:

- (i) During the Pre-British Period, the Depressed Classes (presently termed as Scheduled Castes) were deprived of equality of opportunity in social, political, economic and educational matters. This had led to a state of general backwardness of these classes.
- (ii) The Social Reform Movements initiated in the Nineteenth Century were instrumental for awakening consciousness for the uplift of the Depressed classes. Education was considered as a means of social elevation and economic welfare of these classes and as such most of the social

organisations included expansion of education among the Depressed Classes as a necessary aspect of their programmes.

- (iii) Political consciousness in any class or community leads to consciousness for education as well. The Depressed classes' Conferences and other organisations of the Depressed classes, though primarily worked for earning political privileges to the Depressed classes, had included the provisions for the development of education among these classes in their programmes.
- (iv) The role played by the non-official agencies was crucial in strengthening the efforts of the government for the promotion of education among the Depressed Classes.
- (v) The religious neutrality practised by the British government and the establishment of government schools which were secular in character helped the promotion of education among the Depressed classes.
- (vi) The Contribution of Mahatma Jotirao Phoolley, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Mahatma Gandhi and their co-workers was significant for promoting education among the Depressed classes.
- (vii) Provision of special facilities, creation of monetary incentives in the shape of freeships, stipends, scholarships, grants, etc., reservation of seats in educational institutions and reservation of posts in services, were considered as the motivational forces necessary for the promotion of education among these classes. There was a considerable impact of such provisions on the development of education among the Depressed classes.

- (viii) Provision of hostel facilities was considered to be an important step for promoting secondary and higher education among the Depressed classes.
 - (ix) The education of girls of the Depressed classes comparatively remained ignored during the British Period.
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