



22.10.42

Dear Mr Saiyadain

I have read your paper on primary education with great interest, and do not want you to misinterpret what I am going to say about it. There is no intention to 'muzzle' you, or to propagate any particular idea or point of view; but anything published in these pamphlets goes out with Oxford's academic stamp, and in matters of fact no adverse criticism should ever be possible.

In the first part, on p.3 in particular, I suggest that you are less than fair to the Directors of the East India Company and the administration; the question of primary education was ignored certainly, but was it not equally ignored in England and elsewhere? The notion of universal primary education is a very modern one, and in England itself - see Lowndes' The Silent Social Revolution - educational conditions were no better than in India long after the Directors had ceased to function. Are you perhaps judging actions in the past by the standards of the present? May I suggest you read through Part I again from this point of view?

I should have thought too that the educational stimulus of missionaries deserved mention.

Two minor points: on p.8, line 7 up, and p.10, line 13, I don't follow the references: perhaps a section has been left out.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'M. L. Sankar'.

K.G.Saiyadain Esqre
Director of Education
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