

The Department of Philosophy, Poona University, Poona has just completed a project entitled "Development of Philosophical concepts in Ancient and Medieval India." The project, which runs to over 650 pages, has attempted to document the history and development of some important philosophical ideas and themes in Ancient and Medieval thought in India. Throughout, an attempt has been made to identify and discuss the selected problems in terms of their philosophical relevance and significance for current philosophical thinking. Thus, it is expected that the project would satisfy both the criteria of historical exactitude and contemporary relevance. Out of the vast range of philosophical themes, only few could be chosen for selective emphasis and study in depth. But the chosen problems all appear to be of great systematic as well as contemporary interest.

The project is divided into 4 parts and an Appendix. Part I serves as the preparation for the rest of the work, thus providing us with a general survey of the important philosophic themes and concerns of Indian thought. This part, for instance, outlines the development of thought in ancient and medieval India and also tells the story of the growth of Indian religious thought.

Parts II - IV contain a constellation of specific studies of specific problems contributed by a diversity of scholars and eminent thinkers. Problems and themes of the orthodox systems, as well as of Buddhism and Jainism are included as also general problems such as the problem of meaning, the logical analysis of beauty and the concepts of Rasa and other central concepts of aesthetic theory. These parts embody a treasure house of invaluable information and insights and also attempts to portray their philosophical and systematic value and the Appendix adds a discussion of the influence of Islam on Early Medieval Hindu Thought.

But the project does not merely seek to be a presentation of the history of ideas; it also attempts to present a coherent line of development of philosophical ideas and concepts and to make possible a contemporary assessment of their importance and worth. It is, therefore, a unique venture of its kind in

the tradition of philosophical studies in India, combining historical accuracy and philosophical rigour. Such a Project of course, can only be the fruit of a diversity of talents and interests and the Dept. of Philosophy, University of Poona is to be congratulated for having enlisted the help and assistance of eminent scholars. The project has benefited greatly by the contributions of Dr. S. R. Talghatti, Dr. M. P. Marathe, Mr. Sharad Deshpande, Dr. V. G. Rahunkar, Dr. K. P. Jog, Shri S. M. Shah, Miss A. A. Thatte, Dr. G. S. Herbert, Dr. C. Ramiah, Dr. G. N. Joshi, Dr. V. B. Inamdar, Dr. W. S. Barlingay, Dr. Shaida and the late Mr. D. K. Bedekar.

But such an ambitious project also depends upon the sympathy, understanding and active help of University Authorities and officers of other institutions and in this regard, the scholars of Indian thought owe a debt of gratitude to the authorities of the Poona University, Prof. D. K. Garde and Dr. R. N. Dandekar for having warmly supported the project with their unflinching generosity and ready help.

The attempt, of course, is a pioneering one and as such there is naturally the possibility of a number of refinements and improvements. Such advice and suggestions would, therefore, constitute one important way in which the scholars in other parts of the country and abroad could give the project their support and the benefit of their wisdom. Needless to say, the Dept. of Philosophy, Poona University, Poona would be ever grateful for such help. Meanwhile, the Dept. would like to offer, in a spirit of humble dedication to the scholars and thinkers of the country, their pioneer venture on the history of the "*Development of Philosophical concepts in Ancient and Medieval India.*"

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