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**CENTRAL ADVISORY BOARD
OF EDUCATION IN INDIA**

Report of the Wardha Education
Committee of the Central Advisory
Board of Education, 1939



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REPORT OF THE WARDHA EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE
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The Central Advisory Board of Education at its meeting held in January 1938 appointed a Committee under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Mr. B. G. Kher, Premier and Education Minister, Government of Bombay, to examine the scheme of educational reconstruction incorporated in the Wardha Scheme in the light of the Wood-Abbott Report on General and Vocational Education and other relevant documents, and to make recommendations. This Committee submitted its report to the Board on the 3rd December 1938. During the consideration of this Report, which was generally adopted by the Board, certain issues emerged such as the co-ordination of the 'basic' system with higher education, the ways and means to finance it, etc., which in the opinion of the Board required further examination. With this object in view, the Board appointed another Committee consisting of the following members with powers to co-opt:—

The Hon'ble Mr. B. G. Kher, Premier and Education Minister,
Government of Bombay, *Chairman*.

The Hon'ble Qazi Ataullah Khan, Minister of Education, Gov-
ernment of the North-West Frontier Province.

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur.

Mrs. Hansa Mehta, Parliamentary Secretary for Education to
the Hon'ble the Prime Minister, Bombay.

Dr. Zakir Hussain, Principal, Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi.

Pandit Amaranatha Jha: M.A., Vice-Chancellor, Allahabad Uni-
versity.

Dr. W. A. Jenkins, D.Sc., I.E.S., Director of Public Instruction,
Bengal.

Mr. W. H. F. Armstrong, I.E.S., Director of Public Instruction,
Punjab.

The Educational Commissioner with the Government of India.

The Board also suggested that the Committee should, if possible, visit places where the 'basic education' scheme is in operation.

2. In accordance with the powers conferred on the Committee by the Board, the following were co-opted as additional members:—

The Hon'ble Mr. C. J. Varkey, Minister of Education, Govern-
ment of Madras.

The Hon'ble Pir Ilahi Baksh Nawaz Ali, Minister of Education,
Government of Sind.

Mr. J. C. Powell Price, I.E.S., Director of Public Instruction,
United Provinces, Allahabad.

3. The Committee as finally constituted held two meetings; the first in Simla on the 12th and 13th June, and the second at Poona on the 29th October 1939. Mr. Powell Price was unable to attend either meeting and the Hon'ble Mr. Varkey and Dr. Zakir Hussain were unable to attend the second meeting. It proved impossible to arrange for the Committee as a whole to visit places where the "basic education" scheme is

in operation, but personal visits were paid by most of the members to some or all of these places.

4. The agenda and papers circulated therewith to the members of the Committee are set out in Appendix I.

A copy of the resolutions passed by the All-India Muslim Educational Conference and of notes on the agenda by the Hon'ble Pir Illahi Baksh, both of which were circulated to members of the Committee will be found in Appendices II and III, respectively.

5. "Pre-basic" education.—The original Wardha Scheme advocated the free and compulsory education of all boys and girls between the ages of 7 and 14, though girls might be withdrawn after the completion of their 12th year if their guardians so desired. The Zakir Husain Committee recognised the importance of providing educational facilities for children below the age of 7 and envisaged the possibility of this being done on a voluntary basis with State help where possible, but did not feel justified in including it as a part of the compulsory scheme in view of financial and other considerations. The report of the first Kher Committee, as adopted by the Central Advisory Board of Education, contemplated the period of compulsory education as extending from the age of 6 to the age of 14 for all children.

The Committee fully recognise the importance in the child's educational life of the years 5—7. During this period the foundation of good habits, mental, moral and physical can be laid and the effects of childish ailments detected and remedied more easily and more effectively than at any later age. They understand that in many provinces at the present time children are admitted to the infants classes of primary schools at about the age of 5 and that parents are often glad to be able to leave their children during the day where they will not only be looked after but will also receive some useful training. They also appreciate the fact that where parents have acquired the habit of sending their children to school at an early age the difficulties of enforcing attendance when the compulsory stage is reached will be considerably reduced. They are accordingly anxious that facilities for education at the 'pre-basic' stage, so far from being reduced, should be widely extended by increasing the number of infants classes in State schools and by encouraging the establishment of efficient 'pre-basic' schools by voluntary agencies. They also suggest that Provincial Governments should set up a few model infants schools where the correlation of Kindergarten instruction with the curriculum of the 'basic' school may be studied and developed. The Committee do not, however, consider that it is practicable at the present stage to lower the minimum age of compulsory attendance below 6 years. To do so would add substantially to the serious financial problems already involved, by the 'basic education' scheme and would also assume an adequate supply of properly trained women teachers, since children at this early age should be taught by women and not by men. Such a supply is practically non-existent in India at the present time. Steps should be taken to create it, either by adding special courses in infants teaching to existing training schools or by establishing special institutions for this purpose. The Committee were interested to learn that in certain provinces the possibility of utilising the services of widows in this connection was being explored and believe that this source of recruitment may be further enlarged. In the meantime, however, pending the solution of

the two major problems referred to above the Committee are of opinion that 'pre-basic' education, when provided by the State, should be free but not compulsory.

6. *'Basic' education and its division into two stages.*—A 'basic' school as at present conceived would appear to constitute a unit by itself for children between the ages of 7 and 14. The protagonists of the 'basic education' scheme are rightly insistent that the whole course should be regarded as coherent and consecutive. There is nothing, however, in this conception which conflicts with the view generally accepted by educationists to-day that the mental and physical changes which boys and girls undergo as a rule about the age of 11—12 should be recognised by corresponding adjustments both in the content of the curriculum and in the methods of instruction. Hence arises the need for treating the instruction given before and after this psychological break as forming two well-defined stages, each with its own scope, aims and technique though inspired by the same fundamental aim. It was for this reason that the Central Advisory Board of Education, when formulating a framework of educational organisation at its first meeting in 1935, recommended an organisation consisting of a primary stage, a lower secondary stage, and a higher secondary stage. There is, in fact, nothing novel so far as India is concerned, about the idea of a break at about the age of 11—12, as every province makes a distinction between primary and secondary or middle education, though the dividing line is at the end of the fourth class in some cases and at the end of the fifth in others. Nor is there anything in the general conception of the 'basic education' scheme which is repugnant to the notion that the onset of adolescence should receive recognition by a suitable differentiation in the scope and method of instruction. The principle of 'learning by doing' is equally applicable in the primary and in the post-primary school, only its practical interpretation needs adjustment to the growing powers and changing interests of the children. Moreover, if opportunities are to be provided for children to transfer from 'basic' schools to other forms of post-primary education and if as the Committee contemplate, the 'basic' school is to become the normal type of primary school not only in rural but also in urban areas, where the number desiring such transfers is likely to be much greater, a break in the organisation at about the age of 11—12 will become a matter of normal convenience as well as of educational desirability. It is obviously important that a child, if and when he transfers, should have completed a planned stage in his school career. Apart from those likely to be transferred to other forms of post-primary education—and they will be a comparatively small minority—there is an equally strong argument in the case of the remainder for a break between the primary and post-primary stages. The organisation of practical activities and their correlation with other subjects will be more effective and less expensive at the post-primary stage, from the point of view both of grading pupils according to their intelligence and of economising staff, accommodation and equipment, wherever it is possible to provide a central school to serve a number of contributory primary schools. This will be possible as a rule in towns and in those rural areas where villages are fairly large and close together. Finally, boys and girls, who under satisfactory arrangements may be educated together during the primary stage, will have to be taught separately subsequently. Provision for their post-primary education will be much facilitated if they can be collected in sufficient numbers into 'basic' post-primary central schools.

After serious consideration of this most important problem the Committee reached the conclusion that the divergence between those who regard the 'basic' course as one and indivisible and those who realise the need for a break between about the age of 11—12 is more apparent than real. For those children—and they will be the great majority—who remain to the end of their school career under the 'basic' system, there will be no break in the continuity or aim of the instruction, and such a break as there may be will be only a transference from one 'basic' school to another. For those who pass to other forms of post-primary instruction, the effects of the change will be minimised if the curriculum of the institutions in question is closely related, as the Committee recommend, to that of the 'basic' school. The Committee accordingly are agreed that 'basic' education should comprise a correlated course of eight years from the age of 6 to the age of 14, which for the sake of convenience should be divided into two stages—the first stage covering a period of 5 years and the second stage 3 years. The first stage should be called "junior" and the second stage "senior". Moreover, the curriculum for all schools beyond the 'junior basic' stage, whether 'senior basic' or other forms of post-primary education, should develop logically from that of the 'junior basic' school.

7. *Transfer of children from 'basic' schools to other schools.*—The Committee contemplate that the 'basic' school will be the normal type of school attended by all children up to the end of the 'junior' stage. They realise, however, that after that stage certain children, and particularly those who may be intended for a university career, will transfer to schools of a different type from the 'senior basic' school. The Committee feel that arrangements should be made for such transfers in the case of children who have completed the fifth grade in 'basic' schools and shown the necessary aptitude for benefiting by a course of higher education. Without desiring to prescribe in any detail the nature of such a course, the Committee lay emphasis on the fact that the curriculum should derive naturally from that of the 'junior basic' school, but should vary in its later stages to meet both the differing aptitudes of the pupils and the requirements of the occupations they intend to enter on leaving school. These variant forms of higher education should extend over a minimum period of 5 years, with a further course of more advanced work for those who intend to proceed to a university or enter occupations for which a more prolonged course of study is regarded as essential. It may be convenient for such diversified courses to be given in separate institutions and the possibility of developing Technical High Schools in or in connection with existing Technical Colleges, as forms of higher education alternative to that provided by the normal high school, should receive careful consideration. It is particularly important that subject to the over-riding right of the parent to make the final decision, the school to which a child should go at the conclusion of the 'junior basic' stage should be determined primarily by the special aptitudes he has displayed during this stage. In any area where compulsory education up to 14 is in force, a child will remain under obligation to attend school to that age whatever the type of school he may be attending.

While those children whose general intelligence or future careers make it obvious that they cannot complete their education in a 'senior basic' school, should be transferred at the end of the fifth class wherever possible, provision must also be made for those children who wish to

continue their education after completing the course at the 'senior basic' school. Special arrangements must be made so that such children may receive special tuition in those subjects, *e.g.*, English which do not form part of the curriculum of the 'senior basic' school.

As regards the relation of the post primary schools other than the 'senior basic' with university courses, the Committee did not consider it desirable to go into details, as it is for the universities to prescribe their own courses. They feel, however, that it is by no means impossible for the responsible educational authorities to relate the instruction provided in such schools to that of the 'junior basic' school at one end and of the university at the other.

8. *Parallel courses of instruction for girls in the upper classes of 'basic' schools.*—The Wardha Scheme, while allowing girls to be withdrawn from 'basic' schools after the completion of their 12th year if their guardians so desire, clearly did not contemplate that the education of all girls would cease at this stage. The Central Advisory Board of Education assume that compulsion up to the age of 14, if and when introduced, will apply to girls as well as to boys. A suitably modified syllabus will therefore be necessary for those girls who continue their education in 'senior basic' schools. The Committee accordingly recommend that courses should be framed specially suited to the aptitudes and requirements of older girls and should include such subjects as cookery, laundrywork, needlework, homecrafts, the care of children, first aid, etc., the rest of the instruction being correlated with these practical activities in accordance with the general principles of the 'basic education' scheme.

9. *Appointment of a standing committee to watch educational developments.*—Provinces are now embarking on new educational experiments and the system of 'basic education', which many of them are introducing, is still in the experimental stage. It will be advantageous if the results of all these experiments are watched and co-ordinated by some central body. The Committee, therefore, recommend that a standing committee of the Central Advisory Board of Education be appointed to survey the general progress of educational developments in all the provinces, with special reference to 'basic' education, and to make recommendations to the Board for necessary action from time to time. This standing committee should contain a representative of the Hindustani Talimi Sangh.

10. *Central Bureau of Information.*—The syllabus outlined in the Zakir Husain Report is admittedly tentative and is likely to require adjustment in the light of local conditions. The interpretation of the syllabus in this connexion, the extent to which a particular topic or craft is to be introduced and the nature of the incidental information to be given to children at any given age are problems which require to be carefully handled. The Committee considered whether any organisation such as a central bureau, through or by which these and similar problems can be elucidated, should be set up, but came to the conclusion that as this was essentially a matter for local decision it was not necessary to create a central bureau at this stage.

11. *Ways and means to finance 'basic' education.*—The framers of the original Wardha Scheme hoped that while such education during the earlier stages might not be productive yet for the whole period of seven years it would be self-supporting. The Wardha Conference which met in 1937 to consider this scheme was not convinced that

it could or should be made self-supporting although it considered that it would gradually be able to cover the remuneration of teachers. ✓The Zakir Husain Committee also doubted whether such education could be made entirely self-supporting and while expressing the opinion that 'basic' education should cover the major portion of its running expenses, stated that all other educational expenditure, *e.g.*, on buildings, equipment, etc., must be met from other sources, public and private. The Committee of the Central Advisory Board of Education appointed in 1938 to consider this scheme also pointed out that 'activity' schools would cost more to run in the beginning than the present type of school. It may now be accepted that no school, 'basic' or otherwise, which devotes itself to its proper function is likely to be an entirely self-supporting unit. This, however, is no reason why the marketable articles it produces should not be sold as advantageously as possible. After this and other possible sources of income have been fully explored, the balance of the cost of providing a compulsory system of education, which must be free, will have to be met from public funds.

The provision of such education as is necessary for its own stability and the well-being of its citizens is a fundamental responsibility of the democratic State—a responsibility which should be divided equitably among those authorities which are concerned with educational administration. In countries like England, about 50 per cent of educational expenditure comes from the Central Government and the rest is found from local sources. In India, the authorities concerned are the Central Government, the Provincial Governments and the local bodies entrusted with educational powers. Each of these authorities must contribute their share of the net cost of education, *i.e.*, the total cost after receipts from fees, voluntary contributions and the sale of articles made in school have been deducted. Apart from this general consideration the Committee are satisfied from figures submitted to them that the cost of introducing a free and compulsory system of 'basic' education between the ages of 6 and 14 is beyond the existing financial capacity of any provincial Government or local body, a minimum estimate of the net cost being Rs. 2 per head of population per annum. As they are convinced that the future of India must depend very largely on such a system being introduced without delay, the Committee have no alternative but to recommend that the Central Government should contribute not less than half the approved net expenditure of a Provincial Government on this particular service. Such a contribution would naturally be contingent on the Provincial Government (a) raising the remaining sum required from its own resources (b) undertaking to pay an agreed minimum scale of salaries to its teachers and (c) satisfying the Central Government that the amount is spent on free and compulsory education. The Committee further suggest that in order to lighten the immediate burden of the non-recurring expenditure required to bring the scheme into operation the cost of all sites, buildings, equipment, etc., exceeding Rs. 5,000 for any single item should be met from loan.

12. *Disposal of the produce of schools.*—The 'basic education' scheme centres round a productive basic craft. Means will have to be devised for the disposal of the marketable articles thereby produced. An economical method of marketing is essential, and as this is beyond the scope of any individual school, it will only be possible if a central agency in each province undertakes this work. The Committee do not mean by

this that there should be only one central depot in each province for collecting and selling articles produced at school but that the Provincial Government in each case should undertake direct responsibility for this organisation.

13. *Resolutions of the All-India Muslim Educational Conference.*—The Committee also gave careful consideration to the resolutions submitted on behalf of the All-India Muslim Educational Conference and were gratified to find that on all major educational issues there was a substantial measure of agreement between the decisions of the Conference and their own conclusions.

14. *Main conclusions.*—The following is a summary of the Committee's main conclusions:—

- (1) That while the provision of 'pre-basic' education in Nursery and Infants schools and classes is highly desirable, it is not practicable at this stage, in view of the lack both of money and of trained women teachers, to advocate its introduction on a compulsory basis. Provincial Governments should aim in the first place (a) at providing model Infants and Nursery Schools in suitable centres, (b) at increasing the supply of properly trained infants teachers, who should be women, (c) at encouraging the enrolment in 'basic' schools of children below the minimum age for compulsory attendance and (d) at stimulating the provision by voluntary agencies of efficient 'pre-basic' schools.
- (2) That 'basic' education should comprise a course of eight years from the age of 6 to 14 years and that this course while preserving its essential unity should consist of two stages—the first stage, the 'junior' stage, covering a period of 5 years and the second stage, the 'senior', 3 years.
- (3) That the transfer of children from the 'basic' school to other form of post-primary education should be allowed after the 5th grade, i.e., at the conclusion of the 'junior basic' stage.
- (4) That the various types of post primary school to which suitable children may be transferred at the end of the 'junior basic' stage should provide a variety of courses extending over a period of at least five years after the age of 11. These courses, while preserving an essentially cultural character, should be designed to prepare pupils for entry to Industrial and Commercial occupations as well as to Universities.
- (5) That special arrangements should be made in these schools for assimilating pupils who decide to continue their education after completing the full course in the 'basic' school, i.e., after reaching the 8th class.
- (6) That suitable courses should be framed for girls attending 'senior basic' schools, which should include such subjects as cookery, laundry work, needle work, homecrafts, the care of children and first aid, the remainder of the instruction to be correlated with this course of domestic science in accordance with the general principles of the 'basic education' scheme.
- (7) That a standing committee of the Central Advisory Board of Education should be appointed to watch new educational

experiments carried on in the provinces as well as the progress of educational developments generally, with special reference to 'basic' education, and to make recommendations to the Board for necessary action. There should be a representative of the Hindustani Talimi Sangh on this Committee.

- (8) That subject to such conditions as are set out in the report, the Central Government should contribute not less than half the amount of the approved net recurring expenditure on 'basic' education in each province, the balance to be found by the Provincial Government and the local bodies entrusted by it with the administration of compulsory education. For capital expenditure on buildings, equipment, etc., a loan system should be adopted.
- (9) That a central agency should be established in each province for the disposal of marketable articles produced in schools.

B. G. KHER (*Chairman*).

Q. ATAULLAH.

AMRIT KAUR.

HANSA MEHTA.

ZAKIR HUSAIN.

AMARANATHA JHA.

W. A. JENKINS.

W. H. F. ARMSTRONG.

JOHN SARGENT.

J. C. POWELL-PRICE.

PIR ILLAHI BAKSH.

C. J. VARKEY.

NOTE OF DISSENT BY MR. J. C. POWELL-PRICE.

While agreeing with the main conclusions of the Committee, I am unable to subscribe to the theory that Pre-Basic Education should not be the concern of Government. In India there is only one agency which can be entrusted with elementary education and that is Government. The Infants class is an integral part of primary education and should in no case be separated. The nursery school is a totally different proposition and it only leads to confusion to class Infant and Nursery classes together. I cannot, therefore, agree with conclusion No. 1.

APPENDIX I.

(1) AGENDA.

1. To consider whether compulsion should be introduced from the age of 6 to 11 years in the first stage or from the age of 7 to 14 without any preliminary stage: in this connexion to consider whether in the event of the principle of compulsion applying up to the upper age limit of 14 years and a pupil of a "basic" school being transferred to another type of school at the age of 11, this pupil should be subject to compulsory attendance at that school until he attains the age of 14.

2. To consider what entire educational system should be aimed at in a province, what should be the aims, not inconsistent with the above general aim, for complete "basic" education for children aged from 7 to 14 years, or separately from 6 to 11 and 12 to 14 years and how far these should be complete in themselves and how far only a step towards the higher stages.

3. To consider the question of the co-ordination of the Wardha Scheme with higher education.

4. To consider the desirability of the division of the "basic" school into primary and upper primary schools or stages and the examination of the curriculum in the light of this possible division.

5. To consider the question of the transfer of children from the "basic" school at the age of 11 plus to other schools.

6. To consider what type of schools for higher education should be set up for those pupils who leave the "basic" schools at the end of five years (age 11+) and what should be the conditions, if any, for the admission of such pupils to these schools, and what should be the difference in the curriculum of these two types of schools.

7. To consider what type of secondary (lower and higher) schools should be established to serve the needs of pupils who may join them after completing the full term of "basic" education.

8. To consider what should be the duration and the educational content of these "post-basic" schools.

9. To consider what vocational specialisation may be suitably provided in these schools on the basis of regional and occupational characteristics of their location.

10. To consider the desirability of providing for parallel courses of instruction for girls in the upper classes of "basic" schools.

11. To consider what relation the "post basic" schools should have with the university courses.

12. To consider the question of the provision of "pre-basic" education schools and the syllabus for the same.

13. To consider the question of the training of nursery school teachers and the recruitment of more women teachers generally.

14. To consider the question of ways and means to finance the Wardha Scheme.

15. To consider whether it is desirable or practicable for the State to finance "post-basic" and college education.

16. To consider the desirability of establishing a Board to co-ordinate the work of "basic" education undertaken as an experiment or otherwise in various provinces of the country.

17. To consider the desirability of starting a central bureau to supply uniform literature on the topics included in the curriculum of "basic" schools.

18. To consider the question of the disposal of the produce of children's activities.

(2) NOTE ON THE ACTION TAKEN, OR PROPOSED TO BE TAKEN, BY THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS ON THE WARDHA EDUCATION SCHEME.

While considering the Report of its Committee on the Wardha Education Scheme at its last annual meeting held in December 1938, the Central Advisory Board of Education felt that certain points such as the co-ordination of this scheme with higher education, the ways and means to finance it, etc., required further consideration and appointed another Committee to examine these and any other matters arising out of the Wardha Scheme. It also suggested that the Committee, if possible, should visit places where this scheme is already in operation. The provincial authorities were requested to supply information as to any schemes or other material which might be useful to the Committee in considering the questions referred to them and to suggest schools within their jurisdiction, if any, where the Wardha Scheme had been in operation for a sufficiently long time to justify a visit by the Committee. The information received from them is as follows:—

Madras.—There is no recognised school in this province in which the Wardha Scheme has been in operation.

Bombay.—The Government of Bombay have sanctioned a scheme to open about 100 "basic" schools from June 1939,—60 in four compact areas and 40 in isolated places. There is, however, one school at Thamna in the Kaira district which has been working on the lines of the Wardha Scheme for some 8 months. This school is working under the supervision of one Mr. Narharibhai Parikh of the Sabarmati Ashram, Ahmedabad.

The Government of Bombay have further expressed the following views as regards certain matters connected with the Wardha Scheme:—

- (a) In this province there are infants classes in all primary schools where children are sent at the age of 5 or even 4. So long as these classes are maintained, it will not be possible to refuse admission to such children. In rural areas people regard such classes as a kind of creche and under present circumstances, it is desirable to provide some useful occupation for children of this age.
- (b) The general trend seems to be in favour of co-education in "basic" schools up to the age of 11 *plus*, girls to be allowed to drop out at about 12 years of age. This does not mean that all girls will drop out and a suitably modified optional syllabus will be necessary for those girls who continue their education in "basic" schools after this stage.
- (c) The Wardha Educational Committee of the Central Advisory Board of Education has suggested various forms of activity

serving as a preparation for, and developing into, a productive basic craft in higher classes. Suggestions are invited with regard to the disposal of the marketable articles thereby produced.

- (d) The syllabus outlined in the Zakir Husain report is admittedly tentative and is likely to require adjustment in the light of local conditions. The interpretation of the syllabus in this connection, the extent to which a particular topic or craft is to be introduced and the nature of the incidental information to be given to children at any given age are problems which require to be carefully handled and some organisation such as a central bureau through or by which these and similar problems can be cleared up will be a great advantage. A Board to co-ordinate the work of basic education, undertaken as an experiment or otherwise, is also desirable in the various provinces.

Bengal.—This province has not as yet started any schools on the Wardha Scheme nor does it contemplate doing so in the near future.

United Provinces.—A committee appointed by the Provincial Government has submitted an interim report recommending the adoption of the Wardha Scheme with certain modifications. A Basic Training College for Men was accordingly started in August 1938 at Allahabad where graduates are being trained in the "basic" system of education. An experimental "basic" school consisting of classes I and II, where the actual system is being worked out, has been attached to the College. A Basic Training College for Women was also started in September 1938 and has been placed under the charge of the Principal of the Basic Training College for Men.

In January, 1939, two teachers from each district board were sent to the Basic Training College to undergo a three months' refresher course in the 'basic' system of education. These courses have now been finished and the Government have started refresher courses from the 1st May for about three months at the headquarters of the seven Inspectorial districts in the province where primary school teachers from district and municipal boards are undergoing training in the methods of "basic" education. It is proposed to have 250 teachers trained at each centre on these lines by graduates turned out from the Basic Training College under the guidance of a member of the staff of the Basic Training College. These teachers will finish their training by the 15th of July and will be sent back to their districts to open at least 30 schools in each district board and at least 5 schools in each municipal board. These schools will be called "basic" schools.

From August 1, another refresher course will be started in the same way for three months and the teachers who attend the course will be required to open another 35 schools. A further course on similar lines will commence in November. In February another course will be run to open class II in some of the above "basic" schools from July 1940. The teachers in their refresher courses will be trained in the principles of "basic" education, general science, civics, handwork including card board work, bookcrafts, spinning and gardening.

Punjab.—There are no "basic" schools in this province. A scheme has, however, been drawn up embodying certain features of the Wardha Scheme.

Bihar.—The Patna Training School has turned out one emergency batch of Wardha Scheme teachers; it begins with a second batch in June. The first emergency batch of teachers started work in schools at Brindaban, near Bettiah, North Bihar, in April 1939. There are 35 "basic" schools in the area.

The Director of Public Instruction, Bihar, has further expressed the following views as regards certain matters connected with the Wardha Scheme:—

- (a) Compulsion should be introduced from seven to fourteen years without any preliminary stage.
- (b) Children may branch off to other schools at the age of 12, or after completing the fifth grade of the "basic" school.
- (c) A sub-committee has been appointed to work out the cost of the Wardha Scheme. It has not yet submitted its report.
- (d) No special training for nursery school teachers is envisaged so far. With the general impetus given to girls' education, a steady supply of women teachers may be anticipated.

Central Provinces.—With the object of implementing the Provincial Government's resolution accepting the syllabus prepared by the Zakir Husain Committee (*viz.*, the 'official' Wardha syllabus), it is proposed to introduce the syllabus in primary schools in a compact area in the Wardha district in the first instance and in the light of experience gained to extend the working of the syllabus to primary schools throughout the province. As regards the training of teachers it is considered necessary that not only primary school teachers but also the staff of normal schools in the province should be trained in the Wardha syllabus. A programme with this object in view has accordingly been drawn up and will be in operation at the Vidya Mandir Training School, Wardha, from the 15th April 1939 to the 30th April 1940. This Training School has already primary classes both in Hindi and Marathi, which with some extension on the Hindi side, can serve as practising classes for the Wardha District Council teachers (under training) while the Wardha District Council teachers themselves will constitute practising classes for the Government secondary and normal school teachers under training. As these teachers will be drafted for training in batches and as the courses will be concentrated in short terms of about 5 months each, the existing Vidya Mandir Training School and Practising School staff will need to be strengthened. It will also be necessary to provide additional staff of a sufficiently high calibre and academic status for the retraining of Government normal school staff. In order to release the Government normal school staff for this training, it is proposed to suspend formation of the 1st year classes in Government normal schools throughout the province for 1939-40 only. The resultant saving in stipends, contingencies, etc., in Government normal schools will counterbalance the expenditure involved in the proposed scheme of the Wardha syllabus training at the Vidya Mandir Training Institute.

There are at present 44 schools maintained by the District Council in the Wardha District of the province where the Wardha Scheme has been in operation since the 1st of January 1939.

Assam.—As an experimental measure the provincial Government have provided in the current year's budget a sum of Rs. 1,000 to encourage the study of Hindustani and also Rs. 1,200 for the training of teachers of

"basic" schools under the Wardha Scheme. It is proposed to appoint a committee, if necessary, to consider the whole question in due course.

North-West Frontier Province.—The Provincial Government have not, so far, been able to introduce the Wardha Scheme in any school in this province. It is proposed to send four teachers during the current year to undergo training at the Jamia Millia, Delhi, and, on their return, to post them to two or three specially selected schools in order to give this new experiment a trial. Last year, a district inspector, a headmaster of a high school and two teachers of the Peshawar Training School for men were sent to Wardha for a fortnight to see the scheme in operation. All of them submitted reports on their return in which they advocated the introduction of the scheme. The Provincial Government, however, could not do so at the moment because of the lack of teachers trained in the new system and also because of certain other difficulties. It is, however, proposed to introduce the scheme in this province as early as possible.

Sind.—The Wardha Scheme has not so far been tried anywhere in this province. A committee of educational experts is shortly to be appointed by the Provincial Government to consider all educational schemes including the Wardha Scheme, and to evolve a scheme which will suit Sind conditions. As regards the financing of the Wardha Scheme, it is stated that this scheme even on the basis of a seven-year duration (ages 7 to 14) and not an eight year duration (ages 6 to 14) as recommended by the Committee appointed by the Central Advisory Board of Education will make the Government of Sind responsible for the "basic" education of 4 lakhs of children in any normal year after the introduction of compulsion throughout the province. In view of the extra cost of an education based on an activity curriculum and of the large number of teachers of a new type and the three year course of training which the Wardha Scheme contemplates, it is estimated that the cost of education per child under the Wardha Scheme will be not less than Rs. 25 annually. The annual cost under present condition is Rs. 23. With 4 lakhs of children between the ages of 7 and 14 in Sind, the annual total cost for "basic" education alone will be over one crore of rupees. This expenditure is beyond the present financial resources of the province. In view of this the education department of Sind will favour the evolution of its own scheme of education which, while achieving the necessary reorientation in the light of some of the basic principles of the Wardha Scheme, will keep the expense of the new undertaking within attainable limits. Till the contemplated provincial reorganisation committee has investigated this problem, it cannot be indicated with any degree of finality how the new scheme will be financed. But if vastly increased expense is called for, as is certain, the following measures (some or all) are suggested to finance it:—

- (a) Substantial annual grant from the Government of India, particularly to poor and backward provinces like Sind.
- (b) An education cess, an employment tax, or some other form of levy to be earmarked specially for education.
- (c) Donation of lands and buildings from charitable individuals and institutions on the lines of the Vidya Mandir Scheme.
- (d) Sale of articles of marketable value produced by pupils in the higher stages of "basic" education.

- (e) Introduction of compulsion up to the age of 11, and leaving the later stages of "basic" education to be worked on a voluntary basis by private agencies under a system of grants and Government inspection.
- (f) Reduction of expenses by means of cheaper designs of school buildings and equipment, by utilising, when possible, the community or religious houses as schools, by having part-time schools, etc.
- (g) Leaving higher education to private effort, the State spending only the minimum on organisation, inspection, etc.
- (h) Conscription of the educated youth of the province for a year or two in each case for service in the "basic" schools.

As regards the training of nursery school teachers and the recruitment of more women teachers generally, it is stated that in view of the consensus of opinion favouring the age-range of 7—14 for "basic" education, it will be necessary to start nursery schools in all the provinces. The education department of Sind considers that as much of the activity in these schools will be in the nature of play and educative entertainment, a simple course of training extending over a few months will meet the situation, and this should be supplemented by the issue of suitable literature for the teachers from time to time and by the occasional holding of refresher courses. Educated girls might be encouraged to start nursery schools in their own homes or in public gardens or in groves of trees, and so on. There is also another way in which recruitment of more women teachers would be made possible. The last two years of "basic" education for girls when they are between 12 and 14 years of age should be so arranged as to give them an idea of the methods and spirit of nursery schools and to leave them free by rotation to go and work in the nursery schools as part of their "basic" education. It is considered that under this arrangement a large number of women teachers for nursery schools will ultimately be found who will be already conversant with the spirit of "basic" education and likely therefore to prepare the children from the ages of 4 to 6 for eventful admission to "basic" schools.

Orissa.—"Basic" schools in this province will start work from the 1st January 1940. A training school for preparing teachers of these "basic" schools will start on the 1st June 1939.

2. As regards the question of visits of the Committee, the Director of Public Instruction, United Provinces, has stated that this year the schools will only have class I teaching under the new system and there will not, therefore, be much for the Committee to see in that province. He is of opinion that members of the Committee will obtain a better insight into the way the Wardha Scheme works if they visit the demonstration school in the Basic Training College at Allahabad at the end of July or in August. Methods of training, or rather "reconditioning", primary school teachers may also be seen at any of the centres in the Inspectorial districts which will also have a demonstration school attached. In their case, however, it will be merely a demonstration school as a practising school is impossible owing to the large numbers involved. The school at the Basic Training College, Allahabad, will however be a practising school.

The Director of Public Instruction, Central Provinces, has suggested that the Committee might visit some of the 44 schools maintained by

the District Council in the Wardha district where the Scheme has been functioning since the 1st January 1939.

The Director of Public Instruction, Bombay, suggests a visit to the school at Thamna in the Kaira District which has been working on the lines of the Wardha Scheme for about 8 months.

The Director of Public Instruction, Bihar, has suggested that the Patna Training School may be worth visiting and that the "basic" schools started at Brindaban may also be visited by the Committee.

3. Apart from the information supplied by the provinces, there is a training school attached to the Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi, which provides for the training of teachers for "basic" schools.

(3) SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CENTRAL ADVISORY BOARD OF EDUCATION HELD IN NEW DELHI ON THE 3RD DECEMBER 1938, REGARDING THE WARDHA EDUCATION SCHEME.

In January 1938, the Central Advisory Board of Education appointed a Sub-Committee under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Mr. B. G. Kher, Premier and Education Minister, Government of Bombay, to examine the scheme of educational reconstruction incorporated in the Wardha scheme, to consider this in the light of the Wood-Abbott Report on General and Vocational Education in India and other relevant documents and to make recommendations. The Sub-Committee submitted its report to the Board on the 3rd December 1938. Its main recommendations were—

- (a) The scheme of "basic" education should first be introduced in rural areas.
- (b) The age range for compulsion should be 6 to 14 years, but children can be admitted to the "basic" school at the age of 5.
- (c) Diversion of students from the "basic" school to other kinds of school should be allowed after the 5th class or about the age of 11 plus.
- (d) The medium of instruction should be the vernacular of the pupils.
- (e) A common language for India is desirable. This should be Hindustani with both the Urdu and Hindi scripts. Option should be given to children to choose the script and provision should be made for teaching them in that script. Every teacher should know both scripts, viz., Urdu and Hindi. Some members of the Committee suggest that the adoption of Roman script might prove a solution to the language difficulty and greatly minimise the work of both scholar and teacher.
- (f) The Wardha scheme of "basic" education is in full agreement with the recommendations made in the Wood-Abbott Report so far as the principle of learning by doing is concerned. This activity should be of many kinds in the lower classes and later should lead to a basic craft the produce from which should be saleable and the proceeds applied to the upkeep of the school.

- (g) Certain elements of cultural subjects which cannot be correlated with the basic craft, must be taught independently.
- (h) The training of teachers should be reorganised and their status raised.
- (i) No teacher should receive less than Rs. 20 per mensem.
- (j) Efforts should be made to recruit more women teachers and to persuade girls of good education to take up teaching.
- (k) "Basic" schools should be started only when suitable trained teachers are available.
- (l) The curriculum will need revision in the light of experience.
- (m) English should not be introduced as an optional subject in "basic" schools.
- (n) The State should provide facilities as at present for every community to give religious teaching, when so desired but not at the cost of the State.
- (o) No external examinations need be held. At the end of the "basic" school course a leaving certificate based on an internal examination should be given.
- (p) Pupils wishing to join other schools at the end of the 5th class (age 11+) should also be granted a leaving certificate.
- (q) Promotion from class to class will be determined by the school, though the results of the internal examinations should be subject to the supervisors' inspection.

2. The Board considered these recommendations at its meeting held on the 3rd December 1938. As regards the recommendation that the scheme of "basic" education should first be introduced in rural areas, the question was raised whether it would not be easier to control and watch this experimental scheme in municipalities rather than in the countryside. But as the real basis of the scheme was to attack illiteracy which existed to a much greater extent in rural than in urban areas and as the proposed curriculum was designed mainly for rural schools, the Board endorsed the recommendation of its Sub-Committee.

3. The Board next considered the recommendation that the age range for compulsion should be 6 to 14 years though children could be admitted to the "basic" school at the age of 5. It realised the difficulty of keeping children at school after they became really productive as their retention at school after the age of 11 up to 14 would impose a severe burden on those parents who belonged to the labouring classes and would expect their children to be earning at that age. It was suggested that in the present circumstances, compulsion should be started with the age limits of 6 to 11 in the first instance, the upper limit to be raised later to 12, 13 or 14. The general feeling however was that, however great the practical difficulties might be, the age range for compulsion from 6 to 14 years as recommended by the Sub-Committee should be regarded as the ultimate objective to be reached by stages.

4. The Board then took up the recommendation of the Sub-Committee that transfer of pupils from the "basic" school to other kinds of school should be allowed after the 5th class or about the age of 11 plus. As it was quite possible that certain children in these "basic" schools might

wish to attend a different type of school, for instance a school in which English was taught, the Board felt that this recommendation from the educational point of view was sound.

5. A suggestion was made that the mother tongue of the pupils, *i.e.*, the language which they normally spoke in their homes, should be the medium of instruction. It was felt however that such a course would lead to considerable practical difficulties on account of the presence of several dialects in the same area, and that if the mother tongue were used as the medium of instruction, a large number of text-books in various dialects would be necessary. Again, where one school might give instruction in one dialect and another in the same area in a different dialect, people would not be able to understand each other. The Board did not favour the suggestion of making the various local dialects of the pupils the media of instruction, and recommended that whatever the language used as the medium of instruction, it should be a literary language.

6. The Board then considered the recommendation relating to a common language for India which should be Hindustani. It was pointed out that the introduction of Hindustani as a compulsory subject in the provinces where Hindi and Urdu were generally spoken might be possible but that its introduction in those provinces where it was neither spoken nor understood would be difficult. Another difficulty, which was urged, was that several provinces had already a number of different languages spoken within their jurisdiction, and the introduction of an alien language (Hindustani) as a compulsory subject in those provinces would further add to their language difficulties. It was also stated that it would be difficult to obtain a sufficient number of teachers who could teach effectively in a language which was foreign to them. On the other hand, it was argued that if there were no common language like Hindustani, intercourse between the provinces would not be possible. Another suggestion was that there should be not only a common language for the whole of India but a common script also, *viz.*, Roman. The Board recognised the advantage of having a common language for the whole of India and the general feeling was that Hindustani should be this common language, and that in the provinces where it was not spoken, it should be introduced in schools as a second language. After a general discussion, the Board decided that when forwarding copies of the report of its Sub-Committee to the provincial Governments, these difficulties should be brought to their notice.

7. The Board observed that primary teachers were at present receiving very low pay in various provinces. It felt that a pay of less than Rs. 20 per mensem was likely to affect the success of the Wardha Scheme and wished to emphasise that no trained teacher should receive less than Rs. 20 a month as recommended by its Sub-Committee. In order to induce more women to take up teaching, it was suggested that higher salaries should be offered to women than to men. The Board, however, felt that the recommendation of the Sub-Committee as it stood was sufficient.

8. With regard to the recommendation of the Sub-Committee that English should not be introduced even as an optional subject in the "basic" schools, a fear was expressed that if English were not taught in these "basic" schools, other schools might follow suit so that a child who wished to learn English would not be able to do so. The Board,

however, considered that the demand for English would be met by the possibility of transfer after the 5th class or about the age of 11 plus to schools where English was taught as recommended by the Sub-Committee.

9. In the course of discussion on the recommendation of the Sub-Committee that no external examination need be held but that at the end of the "basic" school course a leaving certificate based on an internal examination should be given, it was pointed out that no system of internal examination would ever be satisfactory for the purpose of admission to other schools. But as it was open to the authorities of other schools, to which the pupils of the "basic" schools might seek admission, to prescribe any form of test they considered suitable, the Board approved the recommendation of the Sub-Committee.

10. The Board thus generally approved all the recommendations made in the Report of its Sub-Committee, and resolved that a copy of the Report, together with a summary of the discussion, should be forwarded to the provincial Governments for consideration and such action as they might consider necessary.

11. The Sub-Committee did not consider the question of financing the Wardha Scheme as this was outside its terms of reference, nor did it make any recommendation as regards the co-ordination of this scheme with higher education. To examine these questions of finance and co-ordination and certain other matters arising out of the Wardha Scheme, the Board appointed another Sub-Committee consisting of the following members, with powers to co-opt:—

1. The Hon'ble Mr. B. G. Kher, Premier and Education Minister, Government of Bombay, *Chairman*.
2. The Hon'ble Qazi Ataullah Khan, Minister of Education, Government of the North-West Frontier Province.
3. Rajkumari Amrit Kaur.
4. Mrs. Hansa Mehta, Parliamentary Secretary for Education to the Hon'ble the Prime Minister, Bombay.
5. Dr. Zakir Husain, Principal, Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi.
6. Pandit Amaranatha Jha, M.A., Vice-Chancellor, Allahabad University.
7. Dr. W. A. Jenkins, I.E.S., Director of Public Instruction, Bengal.
8. Mr. W. H. F. Armstrong, I.E.S., Director of Public Instruction, Punjab.
9. The Educational Commissioner with the Government of India.

It was agreed that the Committee should, if possible, visit places where the Wardha Scheme is in operation.

(4) "Basic National Education" containing the Report of the Zakir Husain Committee and the detailed syllabus.

(5) Report of the Committee of the Central Advisory Board of Education appointed to consider the Wardha Education Scheme.

(6) Report of the Primary and Secondary Education Reorganisation Committee, United Provinces.

(7) Report of the Syllabus Committee, Central Provinces.

APPENDIX II.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE ALL-INDIA MUSLIM EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE
REGARDING WARDHA SCHEME.

PART I.—(General).

(1) This conference is of opinion that Government should provide compulsory and free basic education throughout the country. This basic education should cover in the case of boys a minimum period of 8 years, *i.e.*, from the age of 6 to 14 and in the case of girls a minimum period of 6 years, *i.e.*, from the age of 6 to 12.

(2) The Conference is of opinion that the provision of educational facilities for the boys and girls should be separate but if for financial and administrative difficulties it is difficult to make provision for separate education, girls below nine may be educated in mixed schools but there should be separate schools for girls above nine years of age.

(3) The entire basic education should be imparted through the medium of the mother-tongue of students, namely, the medium of instruction for the Muslims of Northern India should be Urdu. In the Provinces where Hindustani language is not spoken, the Provincial language should be the medium of instruction; but every student may be taught Hindustani as Secondary Language. As regards the script, adequate arrangements should be made so that Muslims may learn this language in Urdu script. What is meant by 'Hindustani' language is the language generally spoken and understood by an average educated Muslim and Hindu of Northern India and Deccan.

(4) (a) In this scheme of basic education some suitable vocation or handicraft should be given central importance and the rest of the education should aim at the maximum possible adjustment of the economic and physical environment and the vocation of the child.

(b) In the matter of selection of a vocation this Conference is of opinion that the factors of educational possibilities and environment should be given careful consideration.

(c) In the selection of a basic vocation for girls, special consideration should be given to the fact that their needs and inclinations are different from the boys.

(5) In the Provinces the special educational facilities existing for the Muslims should continue and the foregoing principles of the new basic education should be introduced in the present schools where children of this age are educated but their religious and cultural characteristics should be maintained intact.

(6) Provision should be made for training a sufficient number of Muslim teachers for such schools as mentioned in the resolution No. 5. In this connection the Conference is of opinion that Government should establish a training class under the supervision of the Muslim University Training College which might train teachers for the new scheme.

(7) This conference is of opinion that it is necessary for the general educational machinery that Government should encourage private efforts in connection with the basic education.

(8) While legislating for the compulsory education, consideration should be given to the fact that if the parents can make any other satisfactory arrangements for the education of their girls, such girls may be exempted from attending Government basic schools.

(9) As regards the Advisory Committees or Boards which will be set up in connection with the introduction of basic education, it should be given consideration that the representation of Muslims on the Provincial Committees should be at least that much which they enjoy in the Legislative body of the province; and in the districts that proportionate representation which is fixed for them in the Municipal and District Boards.

(10) Since the introduction of universal compulsory education, the present non-Government institutions which are catering for religious instruction will not be able to discharge their functions effectively; and because without religious instruction, the entire education, according to the Muslims, would be defective and incomplete, in the opinion of this conference it is very essential that arrangements should be made for the compulsory religious education during the school hours for the Muslim students in all the basic schools.

(11) In this connection this committee feels duty-bound to state that the attempts in public schools to create precedents like "Bande-Matram", etc., have caused great anxiety to the Muslim Public as these things wound their religious feelings.

PART II.—(*Secondary Education*).

1. This Conference is of opinion that it is very essential to have proper co-ordination between basic and higher education so that students if they like may continue their studies after the basic education.

2. This Conference is of opinion that in the establishment of school for secondary education due concession should be made for the differing aptitude of the boys, which manifests itself generally at the age of twelve. Therefore those students who are anxious to have secondary education should be given the opportunities to join, after having received basic education for five years, the secondary schools which may be in accordance with their special aptitude.

3. If such secondary schools are to be started by private or educational bodies, such efforts should be encouraged, and the Government should give financial aid.

APPENDIX III.

NOTE BY THE HON'BLE PIR ILLAHI BAKSH NAWAZ ALI, MINISTER OF EDUCATION, GOVERNMENT OF SIND.

Agenda.

To consider whether compulsion should be introduced from the age of 6 to 11 years in the first stage or from the age of 7 to 14 without any preliminary stage.—(a) I would favour an earlier lower age-limit for compulsion for this reason that parents in the rural areas, with which any system of mass education in India will mainly be concerned, would be willing to let their children go to schools while they are still too young to be useful to them in their wage-earning occupations. Earlier the starting age of compulsion, the more willing will this vast mass of parents be to send children to schools and greater therefore will be the success of introduction of compulsion. And once the little children are "captured" with the willing consent of their parents, the new schools if they are everyday a demonstration of their utility, will induce the parents to let their children continue in these schools even after the children are old enough to help the parents in their occupations at home and in the farms. An earlier starting age-limit for compulsion is desirable also on another ground. We take the children at a stage when they are more plastic in body and mind than they would be at a later stage. I would prefer therefore starting age-limit of 6 and not 7 for compulsion, and the age-range of 6 to 11 as the first step towards a more extensive plan of compulsion where provincial finances permit it.

(b) Even with an earlier starting age-limit for compulsion, say 6 years, a preliminary stage of education for children between 3 to 5 years is necessary in any soundly concerned educational psychology as the most formative years in the earlier life of man, and these we cannot neglect. We cannot concentrate on the superstructure and leave the foundation to be laid indifferently. But this problem of "pre-basic" education, whether it should be compulsory, what its objective and methods should be, what provision should be made for the training and supply of teachers for this stage of education, the financing of it, its correlation with basic education, all these are matters which form a big problem by themselves, and ought to be considered carefully as separate items in the agenda of a future meeting of this committee.

(c) Where compulsion for the age-range of 7—14 is introduced, I think it is only natural that it should apply also to those who leave the basic schools at the age of 11, and join anglo-vernacular schools. It should apply to such cases till they attain the age of 14.

II. *To consider what should be the general aim of the entire educational system in a province, and what should be the aims (not inconsistent with the above general aim) for complete basic education for children aged 7 to 14 years, or separately for the two stages of basic education 6 to 11 and 12 to 14, and how far these stages should be complete in themselves and how far a step towards the higher range in the educational ladder.—This*

issue was framed by the Sind Government because of the chaotic state of educational planning in the country. While in every aspect of national life, we take care to consider the objective in any campaign, in education we are apt to frame schemes without considering or clearly formulating our aims, and without a clearly visualized goal for our educational programmes, we are apt to land ourselves in an endless morass of complications which will necessitate a fresh overhauling of our educational system. This will only mean a tremendous waste of national energy, enthusiasm and funds in the meanwhile. What kind of individual or citizen do we want our educational system to produce, what kind of social and political order do we want these products of our educational system to sustain, invigorate and keep alive. Should our educational system emphasize the "bread and butter" objective or should it consider also the claims of culture? Do we want our children to be trained in water-tight communal compartment and perpetuate the old animosities, or shall we broad-base our new system on a catholic conception without endangering the culture and heritage of the different communities? There is a wide conflict of conceptions about educational objectives, and it will be a pity if, at the very threshold of a new era in education, the country should have no clearly visualized goal and go on passing syllabuses and building up new organizations, without a clearly formulated objective. I feel that not only this committee but also the Central Advisory Board should address itself to this primary task before it spends its time and energy on any other problem. Let the entire country be given a right lead in this first essential factor of the Indian educational problem, and then we shall find that we shall emerge out of the chaos into which educational thought in the country has fallen, and every province will be able to evolve sound schemes of education for itself. On this subject also I would suggest a special meeting of the committee, or of the Central Advisory Board. Our entire educational organisation, the various stages of it and the nature of each, the finance, the syllabuses, all will depend on the aim we have in view, and the effectiveness of any system is largely due to a clearly formulated aim. Without such an aim, we would be like a pilgrim who just steps on to the highroad without the slightest idea about where he intends going with the result that, instead of finding his journey smooth and straight, he is subjected to vexations and inconveniences and has often to retrace his footsteps. It may possibly happen that such a pilgrim, because he has foolishly started on a journey without considering his goal, may after many years of travel and trouble, find himself again no further from the starting point, and start his pilgrimage afresh. I feel the best brains in our educational service and outside must be requisitioned to solve this first essential of our educational problems which cannot be solved in a few minutes as one item among 18 in the agenda for this meeting.

III. *To consider the question of co-ordination of the Wardha Scheme with higher education.*—The question of the co-ordination of the Wardha Scheme with higher education is bound up with the problem of our aim in education. If we have any clear aim about the Wardha Scheme, naturally that aim will guide us in framing our higher stages in education without endangering the principle of co-ordination. But have we really a clearly formulated aim in the Wardha Scheme, or is it simply the product of some good impulses or theories which have not yet been brought into vital relationship with each other from the standpoint of some central

aim? This question of co-ordination will naturally resolve itself into the following factors, each of which must be given close thought:—

- (a) What types of secondary schools, lower or higher, should be set up to serve the needs of those pupils who may join them after completing 8-year or 7-year basic education.
- (b) What types of secondary schools should be set up to serve the needs of those pupils who leave the basic schools at the end of 5 years.
- (c) Should these two classes of secondary schools have a rich variety of educational content and objectives (either as self contained units or as preparatory stages for University courses or specialised branches of learning or skills), or should they be cast into one mould in the entire province.
- (d) Should these post-basic institutions be merely some kind of a continuation of the basic education in aim and method, or should they be actuated by new aims.
- (e) What should be the relation of these post-basic secondary schools with the final stages in our educational ladder (the University courses, etc.).
- (f) The duration and educational content of each of these stages in education, after the basic education.
- (g) Administrative co-ordination of the basic and post-basic education—whether one single education board in administrative charge of all the stages is more likely to secure a unified administrative and educational policy for the educational system in a province, or is it not more convenient and sound to have separate boards for basic, post-basic secondary and University stages.

All these are the several factors that make up the problem of co-ordination, and I have only stated them. A careful consideration of each factor in the problem may be undertaken or not at this meeting as the answers of opinion among the members of the committee may decide.

IV. *To consider the desirability of the division of the basic schools into primary and upper primary schools or stages and the examination of the curriculum in the light of this possible division.*—I personally feel that a bifurcation at the age of 11 plus is desirable and this point of time in the life of a pupil in a basic school and in the duration of basic education should be the point for division of schools in primary and upper primary. Considerations of adolescence, consideration of sex-developments at this stage, consideration of the need of some classes of students to desist to special types of secondary schools at an earlier stage, all these point to the desirability of a division of basic schools into primary and upper primary.

The curriculum of each of the two divisions, while guided by one central aim, should be so fixed as to recognise the general educative process that is sufficient before adolescence and the special educative process that is essential from the onset of adolescence. Perhaps in the primary stage, the subject of importance should be practical civics, organized games and special crafts, while in the primary stage the subjects

and activities should be of a more general and spontaneous nature not calling for narrow specialization or definitely productive activity.

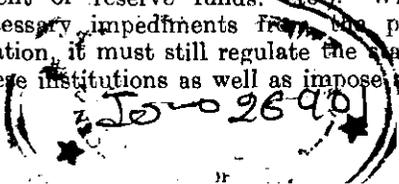
V. *To consider the question of the transfer of children from "basic" schools at the age of 11 plus to other schools.*—If we agree to divide the basic schools into primary and upper primary stages, one of the reasons is that some students would desire transfer to other types of schools before they complete the entire period of 7 or 8 years in a basic school. But, as such transfers, if indiscriminately made, may defeat the purpose of compulsion, clear rules must be framed to regulate such transfers. In the first place, a pupil or his parent seeking to leave a basic school at the age of 11 plus must show that he wishes to leave it definitely for joining another type of school. He must indicate the school he wishes to join and obtain a note from that school to the effect that he is going to be admitted to that school. Moreover, the pupil desiring this kind of transfer must be certified to have completed the five years in the basic school satisfactorily, and should be required compulsorily to complete two or three years more at his new school.

VI, VII, VIII and IX. These items in the agenda are partially answered in my remarks on item No. V and item No. III. It is a question of "post-basic" schools, and the factors of this problem I have stated in my remarks on item No. III.

X. *To consider the desirability of providing for parallel courses of instruction for girls in the upper classes of "basic" schools.*—If at the age of 11 plus, co-education must cease, I think it would be advisable to have a differentiation of courses for the two sexes in the upper primary stage of the basic schools. In schools where co-education continues right up to the end of the 14th year the purpose of "parallel courses" would be adequately served by allowing certain options specially suited to the aptitude and requirements of girls, e.g., cooking (pastry-making, manufacture of chutneys, marmalades, etc., sewing, embroidery, child-psychology, care of the infants) which, however, would be open for boys also to take up if they so choose. This is already dealt with partially in my remarks on items Nos. II, III and V. This also is a problem of co-ordination, the factors of which I have indicated.

XII, XIII and XIV. These have been dealt with in the Government of Sind Note which appears in the Central Advisory Board's note on action taken or proposed to be taken by Provincial Governments.

XV. *To consider whether it is desirable or practicable for the state to finance "post-basic" and college education.*—This problem is a matter of financial resources of each province. If the Wardha Scheme with an 8 year compulsion is introduced in a province, it leaves hardly anything to be spent on "post-basic" secondary schools and a college education. In this situation, if the needs of mass education are regarded as of paramount importance, post-basic and college education should be left to private enterprise. The only thing the state should do is to organize these stages of higher institutions on sound educational and administrative principles and to relax such regulations as at present impose unnecessary financial limitations on private agencies (e.g., rules about costly buildings or endowment or reserve funds, etc.). While the state must remove these unnecessary impediments from the path of private enterprise in higher education, it must still regulate the standard of teaching and attainments in these institutions as well as impose safeguards against undesirable



multiplicity of such institutions and unhealthy competition among them.

If the Wardha Scheme is not adopted or only a limited form of compulsion is introduced, it is desirable and practicable for the state to aid (not entirely finance) "post-basic" secondary schools and colleges.

XVI. *To consider the desirability of establishing a Board to co-ordinate the work of "basic" education undertaken as an experiment or otherwise in various provinces of the country.*—The idea of a central board for basic education is rather premature. I doubt whether all the provinces have really accepted once for all the principles of the Wardha Scheme, and if a Board is established, it would mean an exclusion of some provinces from its membership, though these provinces may ultimately evolve schemes of education which may be found more suited to the needs of India in general and their own area in particular than the Wardha Scheme. I suggest that the purpose of co-ordination and many other useful purposes would be served if a permanent sub-committee of the Advisory Board is set up to examine and co-ordinate *all new* experiments whether on Wardha lines or otherwise. This committee should have one member who should be frequently sent to different provinces on visits to see the working of new experiments. His reports should be annually or more frequently placed before the "New Education Sub-committee" for co-ordination and discussion, and these reports will secure further co-ordination and provide greater stimulus to the zeal for reform in provincial governments from time to time. This sub-committee should be formed of educational experts, one from each province recommended by the provincial governments.

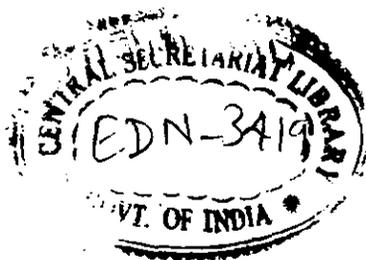
XVII. *To consider the desirability of starting a central bureau to supply uniform literature on the topics included in the curriculum of basic schools.*

Excellent idea.—The bureau should also collect any useful information that may be available in any provinces and circulate it to all the provinces. It should also keep a note of all good publications on the topics, and draw the attention of all the provinces to them. If possible, a fortnightly educational bulletin with the above object and for co-ordination of new experiments in education (including the Wardha Scheme) may be published by this bureau.

XVIII. *To consider the question of the disposal of the produce of the childrens' activities.*—I am afraid, the idea that the Government of a province should purchase these articles and sell them to consumers who are expected to pay more for them than the market rates justify, is fantastic. It will never work. But a collecting agency is necessary and a central agency to distribute and sell these articles. The prices of these articles can only be regulated by the general law of demand and supply, or each school or all the schools of a taluka should give a yearly contract to some dealer for the purchase of their articles on some reasonable terms of profit to the dealer and secure through easy payments to the schools.

A General Note:—From the demi-official letter of the Commissioner, it looks as if the main subject for discussion at the meeting is to discuss our terms of reference generally and decide what particular features of the (Wardha) scheme we wish to study on the spot and where we can best see them. I hope, we will be discussing the terms of reference of

the Wardha Education Committee not generally but as contemplated in the agenda placed before us. That I understand, is what is meant by a general discussion of our terms of reference. That general discussion confined to the items in the agenda is, I expect, likely to lead us to a consideration of our programme for visits to Wardha scheme centres. But, though a general discussion of our terms of reference on the basis of the agenda supplied to us is welcome, I doubt whether a visit to any of the Wardha scheme centres at this stage of the experiment will be productive of much enlightenment, except in observing the method of teaching and the spirit of the scheme. Many of our problems, such as the correlation of the Wardha scheme with higher education or even the financing of the scheme, or the question of age-range or bifurcation at some stage and numerous other problems connected with the Wardha scheme will not in any way be solved by a visit to places where the Wardha scheme has just been started. We can either work towards a solution of these problems from now in the faith that the Wardha scheme is bound to produce the result of the experiment (not as contemplated but as actually proved in practice). I am strongly of the opinion that where an entirely new educational experiment is concerned, involving radical departures from the existing system, involving many financial and educational complications, we should not extend the field for experimentation on the mere assumption of its ideological soundness. While experimentation on a reasonable scale is necessary, we should not take it for granted that the experiment is bound to succeed and immediately begin solving all the other correlated problems and doing further stages of education on this assumption. I would suggest that instead of visiting the different centres where the Wardha scheme is being tried and formulating our conclusions so soon, we suggest a limited programme of minimum experimentation to all the provinces, and then an expert should visit the experimental centres in all the centres, and the reports of this expert should be annually considered by the Wardha Committee till such time as we have enough material and evidence at our disposal to formulate a forward educational policy for universal adoption all over India with only such modifications for each province as the local conditions justify.



Basic education



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