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THE HISTORY AND PRESENT STATUS OF ADULT EDUCATION IN

CEYLON

WITH SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT.

BY

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ABSTRACT

This dissertation is an attempt to study the progress of adult education in Ceylon, from the inception of the movement. It will be noticed that the initial interest in adult education really began with the granting of semi-responsible internal self-government and universal franchise under the Donoughmore Constitution.

Chapter 1 makes an introductory survey of the nature and scope of adult education in general and the numerous concepts held with regard to adult education.

Chapter 2 analyses the various needs and problems that adult education is called upon to solve together with their implications on different aspects of community living in Ceylon and their effect on the social, economic and political development of the country. With the attainment of independence the solution of these problems have become all the more important for national advancement.

Chapter 3 is devoted to a historical review of adult education in Ceylon. It deals with the work and the contributions of such institutions as night schools, adult classes, adult centres, community centres, rural development societies etc., to the course of adult educational activity in the island.

Chapters 4 and 5 are concerned with the activities of various government departments, voluntary organizations and international agencies in the field of adult education. The experiment in adult and fundamental education launched by the UNESCO in collaboration with the Government of Ceylon outlined in Chapter 5 is the finest example of international assistance to Ceylon in the sphere of adult education.

Chapter 6 is devoted to a discussion of some of the methods of adult education as they are practiced in Ceylon. It will be noticed that some of the mass media such as the press, the radio and the cinema are not used to the best advantage in Ceylon. Library facilities are inadequate and institutions such as the National Museums perform hardly any *particular* service to adult education.

In the last chapter an attempt has <sup>made</sup> been ~~to~~ suggest some possible lines of future development derived from a comparative study of adult education in England, the United States of America and Denmark. These aspects of their adult educational set-up, as are particularly relevant for the present discussion, have been dealt with and it is hoped that a re-orientation could soon be effected in our adult educational system.