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OFFICES OF THE PUBLICATION DIVISION, NCERT

NCERT Campus Sri Aurobindo Marg New Delhi 110 016

108, 100 Feet Road

Hosdakere Halli Extension Banashankari III Stage Bengaluru 560 085

Navjivan Trust Building

P.O.Navjivan

Ahmedabad 380 014

CWC Campus Opp. Dhankal Bus Stop

Panihati
Kolkata 700 114 Phone : 033-25530454

CWC Complex Maligaon Guwahati 781 021

Phone: 011-26562708

Phone: 080-26725740

Phone: 079-27541446

Phone: 0361-2674869

Publication Team

Head, Publication

: M.V. Srinivasan

Division

Chief Editor : Bijnan Sutar

Chief Production Officer (In charge) : Jahan Lal

Chief Business

siness : Amitabh Kumar

Manager

Editor : R.N. Bhardwaj

Production Officer : Sunil Sharma

Cover, Layout and Illustrations
Blue Fish

Cartoonist

Irfan

Foreword

The National Curriculum Framework (NFC) 2005, recommends that children's life at school must be linked to their life outside the school. This principle marks a departure from the legacy of bookish learning which continues to shape our system and causes a gap between the school, home and community. The syllabi and textbooks developed on the basis of NCF signify an attempt to implement this basic idea. They also attempt to discourage rote learning and the maintenance of sharp boundaries between different subject areas. We hope these measures will take us significantly further in the direction of a child-centred system of education outlined in the National Policy on Education (1986).

The success of this effort depends on the steps that school principals and teachers will take to encourage children to reflect on their own learning and to pursue imaginative activities and questions. We must recognise that, given space, time and freedom, children generate new knowledge by engaging with the information passed on to them by adults. Treating the prescribed textbook as the sole basis of examination is one of the key reasons why other resources and sites of learning are ignored. Inculcating creativity and initiative is possible if we perceive and treat children as participants in learning, not as receivers of a fixed body of knowledge.

These aims imply considerable change in school routines and mode of functioning. Flexibility in the daily time-tables is as necessary as rigour in implementing the annual calendar so that the required number of teaching days are actually devoted to teaching. The methods used for teaching and evaluation will also determine how effective this textbook proves for making children's life at school a happy experience, rather than a source of stress or problem. Syllabus designers have tried to address the problem of curricular burden by restructuring and reorienting knowledge at different stages with greater consideration for child psychology and the time available for teaching. The textbook attempts to enhance this endeavour by giving higher priority and space to opportunities for contemplation and wondering, discussion in small groups, and activities requiring hands-on experience.

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) appreciates the hardwork done by the textbook development committee responsible for this textbook. We wish to thank the Chairperson of the advisory group in Social Sciences, Professor Hari Vasudevan, and the *Chief Advisor* for this textbook, Professor Tapas Majumdar, for guiding the work of this committee. Several teachers

contributed to the development of this textbook; we are grateful to their principals for making this possible. We are indebted to the institutions and organisations which have generously permitted us to draw upon their resources, material and personnel. We are especially grateful to the members of the National Monitoring Committee, appointed by the Department of Secondary and Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development under the Chairpersonship of Professor Mrinal Miri and Professor G.P. Deshpande, for their valuable time and contribution. As an organisation committed to systemic reform and continuous improvement in the quality of its products, NCERT welcomes comments and suggestions which will enable us to undertake further revision and refinement.

New Delhi 16 February 2007 Director
National Council of Educational
Research and Training

RATIONALISATION OF CONTENT IN THE TEXTBOOKS

In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is imperative to reduce content load on students. The National Education Policy 2020, also emphasises reducing the content load and providing opportunities for experiential learning with creative mindset. In this background, the NCERT has undertaken the exercise to rationalise the textbooks across all classes. Learning Outcomes already developed by the NCERT across classes have been taken into consideration in this exercise.

Contents of the textbooks have been rationalised in view of the following:

- Overlapping with similar content included in other subject areas in the same class
- Similar content included in the lower or higher class in the same subject
- Difficulty level
- Content, which is easily accessible to students without much interventions from teachers and can be learned by children through self-learning or peer-learning
- Content, which is irrelevant in the present context

This present edition, is a reformatted version after carrying out the changes given above.

THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

PREAMBLE

WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a '[SOVEREIGN SOCIALIST SECULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC] and to secure to all its citizens:

JUSTICE, social, economic and political;

LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship;

EQUALITY of status and of opportunity; and to promote among them all

FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the individual and the ²[unity and integrity of the Nation];

IN OUR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY this twenty-sixth day of November, 1949 do HEREBY ADOPT, ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION.

^{1.} Subs. by the Constitution (Forty-second Amendment) Act, 1976, Sec. 2, for "Sovereign Democratic Republic" (w.e.f. 3.1.1977)

^{2.} Subs. by the Constitution (Forty-second Amendment) Act, 1976, Sec. 2, for "Unity of the Nation" (w.e.f. 3.1.1977)

Textbook Development Committee

CHAIRPERSON, ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR SOCIAL SCIENCE TEXTBOOKS AT THE HIGHER SECONDARY LEVEL

Hari Vasudevan, *Professor*, Department of History, University of Calcutta, Kolkata

CHIEF ADVISOR

Tapas Majumdar, *Professor Emeritus of Economics*, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

ADVISOR

Satish Jain, *Professor*, Centre for Economics Studies and Planning, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Members

Debarshi Das, *Lecturer*, Department of Economics, Punjab University, Chandigarh

Saumyajit Bhattacharya, *Senior Lecturer*, Department of Economics, Kirorimal College, University of Delhi, New Delhi

Sanmitra Ghosh, *Lecturer*, Department of Economics, Jadavpur University, Kolkata

Malbika Pal, *Senior Lecturer*, Department of Economics, Miranda House, University of Delhi, New Delhi

Member-Coordinator

Jaya Singh, *Lecturer*, Economics, Department of Education in Social Sciences, NCERT, New Delhi

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