



ESHI

Educators' Society for the Heritage of India

Date: February 20, 2006

Ms. Glee Johnson, President
California State Board of Education
1430 N Street, Room 5111
Sacramento, CA 95814 Fax: (916) 319-0175

Subject: History-Social Sciences Textbook Adoption 2005

Dear Ms. Johnson, Members of the Five-Member Committee, Members of the Board, and Members of the Curriculum Commission:

It is my pleasure to communicate with you on behalf of the Educators' Society for the Heritage of India (ESHI), regarding the corrections on coverage of early Indian civilization in California textbooks under adoption.

I would like to draw your attention to the embarrassment and humiliation Hindu students and students of Indian origin are subject to in California classrooms due to insensitive, inaccurate and negative contents on Indic traditions in the textbooks. Additionally, the vested interest of few who intervened in the undergoing process without knowledge of the contents and the corrections is unfortunate. It is a matter of grave concern, but it is never too late to take corrective action and make appropriate changes. Psychological health of children of Indian origin, Hindus, Buddhists, Jains and Sikhs should not be put at risk. The textbooks under adoption should not lead to discrimination of children and their heritage.

In the era of globalization, where we live in a multi-cultural society, it is utmost important that each constituent community is represented with fairness, sensitivity, accuracy, appropriateness and without discrimination and that each civilization is treated equally. Through these communications we have provided scientific evidence in support of the facts brought out earlier and to help the State in the process of making corrections to the textbooks.

I would also take this opportunity to point out again that Sikhism is not being taught at any grade level in California schools. The Sikh community in California should not be left out and particularly so in the aftermath of terrorism that world is gripped in today. It is important that textbooks cover Sikhism and we urge the Department of Education to take necessary steps for inclusion of Sikhism in textbooks at appropriate grade level.

Enclosed please find copies of letters sent earlier to the California Department of Education and California State Board of Education during the process of History-Social Science Textbooks adoption. In context to Aryan migration, please refer to attachment 1 for recent genetic study. This disproves any major influx from regions north and west of India.

Educators' Society for the Heritage of India has been in communication with the Department of Education during the adoption process. The intent of correspondence is to help the public school system achieve excellence in education.

Please note that the Indian Archeological Society had sent nine books along with their correspondence and these are not included here with this letter. In case you need another copy of these books, please do indicate so and these will be made available again. Should you need to communicate with the authors of the textbook, please let me know; it will be my pleasure to facilitate this communication. Please free to contact me, or any member of ESHI, for more scientific/archeological evidence, references, and documents.

I also request you to watch two presentations available on our website at <http://www.eshiusa.org/resources.htm>.

The Educators' Society for the Heritage of India (ESHI), a non-profit organization, was registered in 2003 with a mandate to create accurate and balanced content on Indic traditions and values for textbooks and other publications and to advise school districts, state boards and publishers in this regard. The State of California and The Educators' Society for the Heritage of India have the same common goal: How best to provide up-to-date and correct information that is essential for building a well-informed society. ESHI is here to help you in your endeavor to provide students the best available information.

It is our pleasure to help the education system in California on this matter. Please feel free to contact us anytime.

Sincerely,



Mayank Shekhar
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Attachments:

1. Abstract of paper on genetic analysis published in National Academy of Science, USA.
2. Letter from ESHI dated Dec 1st, 2005.
3. Letter from ESHI dated Nov 19th, 2005.
4. Letter from Indian Archeological Society dated Nov. 21, 2005.
5. Letter from Prof J.S.Rajput, Former Director of National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), dated Nov. 24, 2005.
6. Letter from Professors Ujwala Panse and Chandrakant Panse, Pine Manor College, dated Nov. 23rd, 2005.
7. Letter from Vishva Madhva Sangh (World Madhva Association) dated Nov. 28th, 2005.
8. Letter from Prof. B.V.K.Shastri, Hindu University of America, sent in Nov 2005.
9. Letter from Prof. M.K. Sridhar, Hindu University of America, sent in Nov. 2005.
10. Letter from Prof. Bal Ram Singh, UMASS Dartmouth, dated Nov. 25, 2005.