

BOOK REVIEWS

MINORITIES, EDUCATION AND THE LAW. By James Vincent Anoop Puthusseril, Puthusseril House, Thottada P.O, Kannur Pp. 616. Price Rs. 750/-.

IT IS a rare book on a very essential but controversial subject. Ordinarily, writers fear to deal with the subject. In the context of the opposition to the 2019 amendment to the Citizenship Act and the clamour for more religious rights, the book is of special relevance. It covers subjects like education, religion definition and identification of minority, minority rights under international law, extent of minority rights like establishment and administration of minority educational institutions, administration and management, recognition, affiliation and aid, admission of students, appointment of and disciplinary action on staff, non-minority educational institutions, self financing educational institutions, commercialization of education and malpractices, issues and problems created by the minorities, continuous litigations by and against the Church, caste and social justice, social action litigation, secularism, Directive Principles of State Policy, tribal development, and includes statutes on National Commission for Minorities Act, the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions Act, *etc.*

The book is a seminal work on minorities, which in 25 chapters, deal with different aspects of the subject. Instead of the usual eulogies and encomiums showered on the minorities by similar authors, James Vincent makes a different approach. He analyses the different aspects of the subject not only in the light of case law but also other books and materials, both historical and contemporary, while he does not shudder to express his own views on the modern developments and social movements. His comments are bold, but not bald. He tries to substantiate his arguments with evidence and materials. One may agree or disagree with him. Those who disagree shall not get provoked, as they can make their responses, appropriately in course of time. That will lead to open mutual discussion in open *fora* and evolution of public opinion. After all, that is one of the purpose of good works. At the same time, one cannot forget the ordinarily excellent minority educational institutions while critically evaluating the role of minorities. I recommend this book not only to the legal fraternity but also to the academicians and general readers. It is worth your time. I also support the view of Justice A K Jayasankaran Nambiar who recommends the book to every student of Constitution law and to be the members of the legal fraternity and that the writing is lucid, the author's arguments, persuasive and his criticism, though

vehement at times never indignant. The book is the distilled wisdom of an experienced lawyer. You are guaranteed that the book is precise, authentic and well documented.

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