

NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

BALMIKI PRASAD SINGH, H.E. the Governor of Sikkim (MA Political Sciences) is a distinguished scholar, thinker and public servant. He was appointed to the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) in 1964. He has since been the recipient of several awards and fellowships, including the Jawaharlal Nehru Fellowship (1982-84) and Queen Elizabeth Fellowship (1989-90). He was Mahatma Gandhi National Fellow at New Delhi. Shri. B.P.Singh is recipient of Gulzari Lal Nanda Award for Outstanding public service from the President of India in 1998 and Man of Letters Award from His Holiness the Dalai Lama in 2003.

Over the past four decades Shri B.P. Singh has held a variety of important positions within Assam as well as in the Government of India. He was Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forest (1993-95), Culture Secretary (1995-97) and Home Secretary (1997-99) in Government of India. As an international civil servant, Shri B.P. Singh served as Executive Director and Ambassador at the World Bank during 1999-2002 representing India, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. He was Chancellor of the Central University of Tibetan Studies, Sarnath for six years and Chief Editor of the South Asia Series on “Perspectives on Economics, Technology and Governance” of Oxford University Press, New York.

Shri B.P. Singh has authored six books (i) *Threads Woven: Ideals, Principles & Administration*, LBS Guwahati, 1975, the *second edition* published by Allied Publishers, New-Delhi in 2010 (ii) *The Indian National Congress and Cultural Renaissance*, Allied Publishers, New Delhi 1987 and the *second edition* in 2010; (iii) *The Problem of Change: A Study of North-East India*, Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 1987 and *latest reprint* in 2010; (iv) *India's Culture: the State, the Arts and Beyond*-Oxford University Press, New Delhi 1998 and the *second edition* in 2010; (v) *Bahudha and the post-9/11 World*; Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 2008; and (vi) *Our India*, NCERT, New Delhi, 2011. He is also Chief Editor of the *The Millennium Book* on New Delhi, OUP (2001). In addition, Shri B. P. Singh has published several monographs and articles on politics, culture, ecology and governance in reputed Indian and foreign newspapers and journals.

MEENAKSHI THAPAN Professor of Sociology at the Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi, was awarded her Ph.D by the University of Delhi in 1985. She has taught at the University of Delhi since 1986 and at the Department of Sociology, University of Chicago in 1995 and at the University of Richmond in 2008. At present, she is Co-ordinator of the European Studies Programme at the University of Delhi. She is on the editorial boards of *Body and Society* and *Diaspora, Indigenous, and Minority Education*. She has conducted fieldwork in a residential school in southern India, a slum in Delhi, government and private schools in urban Delhi and Ahmedabad, and schools in Vancouver and Paris. Her research interests have focused on the sociology of education, and schooling in particular, and women's lives and gender relations in urban schools and slums, women's experience of embodiment and women's magazines, and more recently, on migration and identity in India and in Europe. Her publications include *Life at School. An Ethnographic Study* (Oxford University Press, 1991, 2006); (edited) *Embodiment. Essays on Gender and Identity* (Oxford University Press, 1997); (edited) *Anthropological Journeys. Reflections on Fieldwork* (Orient Longman, 1998); (edited) *Transnational Migration and the Politics of Identity* (Sage, 2005); (co-edited with Roland Lardinois) *Reading Pierre Bourdieu in a Dual Context: Essays from India and France* (Routledge, Taylor and Francis, 2006). Her most recent publications are *Living the Body: Embodiment, Womanhood and Identity in Contemporary India*. (Sage, 2009) and (edited) *Contested Spaces. Citizenship and Belonging in Contemporary Times*. (Orient Blackswan, 2010). She is also Series Editor of a five volume series on *Women and Migration in Asia* (Sage, 2005-2008).

ADELE DIAMOND is the Canada Research Chair Professor of Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience in the Psychiatry Department at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada. She received her BA from Swarthmore College Phi Beta Kappa (in Sociology-Anthropology and Psychology), her PhD from Harvard (in Developmental Psychology), and was a postdoctoral fellow at Yale Medical School with Patricia Goldman-Rakic (in Neuroanatomy). Prof. Diamond is one of the pioneers who founded the field of Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience. Her specialty is the complex cognitive abilities, such as attention, self-control, and mental flexibility (collectively called 'executive functions') that depend on prefrontal cortex. She studies the modulation of executive functions by biology (genes and neurochemistry) and by the environment (including

effective programs to aid their development), how they become derailed in disorders (e.g., ADHD or autism), and how to prevent or ameliorate such disorders. Recently she has turned to the possible roles of the arts and physical activity in improving executive functions, academic outcomes, and mental health.

Prof. Diamond's research has changed medical guidelines worldwide for the treatment of PKU (phenylketonuria) and for the inattentive type of ADHD. Her 2007 *Science* paper, showing that executive functions can be improved in young children in regular classrooms and that play seems critical, ignited worldwide interest. She created and organizes a popular biennial conference for the general public on "Brain Development and Learning Conference." For the conference and her other social-action work she received two awards in 2009: YWCA Woman of Distinction Award and the Inaugural Distinguished Achievement Award for Service to the Community from the Faculty of Medicine, UBC. In recognition of her research accomplishments she has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and of many scientific associations, and was named one of the "2000 Outstanding Women of the 20th Century,"

JEAN K. MILLER received an MA (1974) and a PhD (1981) in Education from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio and Montessori Diplomas from the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) for working with children ages 2 ½ through 12 (1969, 1979). After extensive experience working with and observing children ages 2 ½ to 12 in both public and private Montessori Schools and further training from AMI, Dr Miller became a teacher trainer and consultant for AMI. She has trained Montessori teachers in Australia, Canada, India, Italy, and the USA. In addition to training Montessori teachers she travels extensively, giving workshops and doing school consultations in Asia, Australia, Europe and North America. Additional current interests include Action Research by Montessori teachers in Australia, studying various methods for improving Montessori teacher training, an Aboriginal adolescent Montessori program in Australia, and experimenting with helping elementary aged children understand how their brains work so they can participate in their own education in a more efficient and joyful manner. She has recently participated as a writer for the publication of the official Montessori curriculum for the education department of the country of Australia.

KHENPO NGAWANG JORDEN received ordination and training in ritual texts and full ritual arts at *Sa-ngor-tsar-gsum* monastery, Sikkim, under the guidance of the late Venerable Jamyang Nyima and the late Venerable Khenpo Lodo Sangpo. He later attended Sakya College, Dehradun, India, achieving *Bka' bcu pa* (1982) and *Slob dpon* (1984) degrees. After teaching at Sakya College, he attended American universities to improve his English language skills. At Harvard, he studied Comparative Religions, receiving the M.T.S (Master of Theological Studies, 1991) and Ph.D in Indo-Tibetan Studies, (2003) with Harvard's Department of Sanskrit and Indian Studies. His Ph.D dissertation was titled, *Buddha-nature: Through the Eyes of Gorampa Sonam Senge in Fifteenth Century Tibet*. After ten years of teaching, at Harvard and at the University of Chicago, he accepted a permanent appointment (2009) as Director and Principal of the International Buddhist Academy in Kathmandu, Nepal, at the requests of His Holiness, the Sakya Trizin, and Dr Jordan's revered Sakya College teacher: the IBA's founder, the Most Venerable Khenchen Appey Rinpoche. Dr Khenpo Jordan is currently training approximately 40 monastic and non-monastic scholars in two translation programs at IBA, where he has also taught summer courses annually, since 2001, on texts of the early Indian Buddhist Masters. Dr Jordan is currently translating Gorampa's *General Exposition on Madhyamaka Philosophy (Dbu ma spyi don)*, editing his dissertation for publication, and editing the Abhidharma commentary by *Gorampa Sonam Senge*, which focuses on the presentation of *skandhas, dhatus and ayatanas*.