PREFACE

We have marched into the 21st century. The 19th and 20th centuries have witnessed a vast change in the situation of women for better. The clamouring about the poor condition of Indian woman, condemning man for denying honour and freedom to her and raising slogans to uplift her position in society have become a street talk in modern times. In keeping with attempting to better their conditions emphasis has been laid on the place of the girl child in the recent researches. What about their place in the early part of our history? Therefore the present attempt has been undertaken to trace the social world of the girl child in ancient India.

This dissertation has been divided into seven chapters. The Introduction discusses the topic by way of its importance, need for its study, methodology and a brief survey of the existing literature on the subject. Then follow three chapters (II, III and IV), which deal with the numerous complex problems connected with infancy, education and marriage of the girl child. In the next two chapters (V and VI), the status of the girl child in society on the basis of caste and religion has been considered. The concluding chapter (VII), sums up the position and status of the girl child in the period of our study.

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