Prefatory Note

This study works out exclusively the educational thought of Dr. Annie Besant in its Indian setting. The chief aim which this work tries to foster is to provide a systematic explanation of Annie Besant's educational views. The emphasis throughout this work is expositive rather than critical. I have fully tried to give a detailed exposition of her philosophy with its metaphysical, ethical and psychological foundation and its practical application to the field of education. Annie Besant's versatile genius made it possible for her to pinpoint every issue under the sky, from birth control to God. Annie Besant proved to be a procession in one person as she casts her nets very wide, touching the social, religious, educational, political and philosophical fields, but as the present work is restricted to the interpretation of Annie Besant's educational thought so the other cognate fields of less significance have not been touched at all.

Claim of Originality of this work:

I have used, lavishly, the works of Annie Besant and her other associates in order to explain in detail the topics outlined in the synopsis of this dissertation, so a large number of quotations from her works can be easily found. This work is an original study to present Annie Besant's educational thought and other allied views concerning her scheme
Indian national education, though her utterances on various educational topics have been collected from her works and put together in an attempt to let Annie Besant speak herself on her educational thought. But inspite of her long and many quotations recorded in this work, I claim that this work is an original one, as it tries to present Annie Besant as an educationist which has not been done by any scholar so far.

Sources Used:

While working on this work I have used the following sources:

(a) Annie Besant's own books, lectures, tracts, pamphlets and articles which cover a variety of subjects;

(b) Books written about Annie Besant by her close associates and critics;

(c) Other general books which support or criticise her views or touch the general outline of this work;

(d) Discussions and interviews with the living associates of Annie Besant;

(e) Long tours of those places where Annie Besant lived and worked;

(f) Use of libraries. I have spent many months, with books, magazines and newspapers, in the libraries of Indian section of Theosophical Society, Varanasi and the Library of the International Headquarters of the Theosophical Society of Adyar, Madras.
Original Contribution of this Work to the Educational Literature:

This work clearly makes an original contribution to the educational literature as it aims to make:

(a) A co-ordinated study of Annie Besant's educational-reformist views in the light of Indian philosophy;

(b) A study of the Social purpose of Annie Besant's educational reforms;

(c) An investigation into Annie Besant's goal of Indian national life; and

(d) A study of the contributions of Annie Besant to special aspects of Indian Education.

The present study seeks to solve the above noted aims and thus proves to be a very important document of Annie Besant's educational philosophy, experiments and contribution to Indian Education.