There are a large number of areas for rethinking and reforms at every level in the Indian sub-continent at the present day as elsewhere. Education lies at the root of all problems besides identifying itself with all of them. Thereby, it makes it clear that if our country wants to cope up with other progressive countries of the world in every sphere and to attain effective social control and a higher degree of democracy, education must be given primary attention. Its underlying principles should be tested and effectively moulded to suit the new growing world atmosphere of which our country forms part, on the basis of careful study of the contemporary educational theories and practices.

The present work is such an attempt to study the Pragmatic theory of education developed in America which seems to have close resemblance with the Gandhian Basic educational system of India.

This study confines itself to a comparative analysis of the two systems only and does not recommend either the one or the other for obvious reasons. Each system is suited to the society and culture from which
it has risen and as each can profit from some of the universal values common to both, no specific recommendation is possible or desirable.

I found it very difficult to secure the necessary books on both the systems. While there is scarcity of standard basic education books in general, there is non-availability of the source books for the study of Pragmatism in education. Among the available Indian text books in Education, the topic on pragmatism in education is treated briefly on a surface level, which is not at all enough for a deeper study. Only some of the books are available in the U.S.I.S. Libraries situated in the capital cities of the country. A sizeable collection of source books on American topics is available in the American Studies Research Centre situated in Hyderabad. The present work would not have been possible but for the generous help of the American Research Centre.

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While working on basic education, I visited Gandhi Meuseum Library at Madurai, Gandhigram and the Rama Krishna Mission Vidyalaya at Periyanaikenpalayam. Besides, I met basic education personnals like Shri M. Arunachalam, Dr. Kulanthavelu and Dr. Aram. Dr. George Mayer, the Director of American Studies Research Centre gave me practical suggestions while working on the American Pragmatic theory of education. I acknowledge all these helps and encouragements thankfully.

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