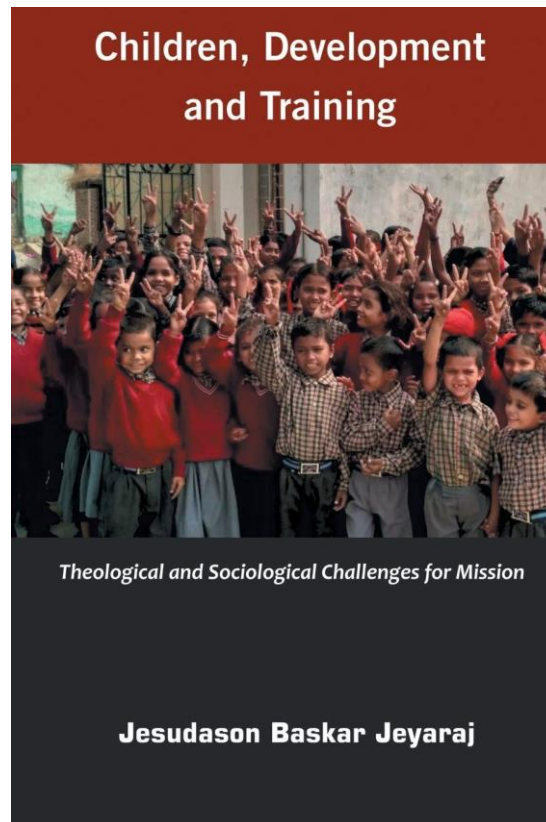


A Brief Review of the Book *Children, Development and Training* by Prof. Jesudason Baskar Jeyaraj

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Courtesy: www.amazon.in

Identifying the original content of an older text needs great skills. A good knowledge of the historical context and comprehending the language used, etc. are required. Identifying the original intent of the contents of the older text and its application to a chosen context (for example, modern times, modern India, etc.) requires love, knowledge and sympathy, and involvement in the modern context.

Professor Jesudason Baskar Jeyaraj accomplishes these goals in his book *Children, Development and Training*. Among the degrees he obtained, the first one is a Master's degree in Gandhian Thought from Madurai University (presently known as Madurai Kamaraj University), and a Ph.D. from Sheffield University in the UK. He has been delivering lectures and conducting seminars in various colleges, seminaries, etc. in Asia.

Children, Development and Training has 9 chapters, and these are presented under four divisions: **Theological Perspective**, **Sociological Perspective**, and **Ministerial Perspective**. Thus, the author identifies the content and intent of the Bible relating to children, and how children could be brought up and trained for their future during their childhood (**Theological Perspective**). Then he looks into the sociological contexts (rather socioeconomic contexts) in which children are brought up and trained for their future (**Sociological Perspective**). The next division **Ministerial Perspective** presents how individuals and groups devoted to presenting the content and intent of the Bible should organize themselves and work out their programs and activities.

This is an interesting book for everyone to read irrespective of their religious affiliations to work within their religious affiliations and work out beneficial, loving programmes and activities for children. Participation of and support to Parents, Families, Communities are not ignored.

The chapters in *Children, Development and Training* are as follows. The titles of the chapters convey the overall content in simple words:

1. Biblical Perspectives on Children and Their Protection
 2. Theology of Development and Transformation of Children
 3. Churches and Kingdom of God: Relationship and Development of Children
 4. Child in the Midst: Incarnation and Child Theology
 5. Invisible Children: Infanticide, Foeticide and Abortion
 6. Children Rights to Education: Holistic Child Development Training for Parents and Trainers
 7. Mission Agenda of Holistic Child Development
 8. Raising up a New Generation: Vision and Mission
 9. Holistic Child Development: Innovation in Theological Education
- Appendix: Questions for Further Discussion

The following two quotes from this book *Children, Development and Training* are very insightful and describe the reality of our context. Such insightful observations are found relating to children, development and training throughout this book.

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vi. The rapid urbanization of rural areas has led couples to opt for female feticide. Villages after villages vanish in many regions of India particularly in the surrounding vicinities of cities like Rural people have not only lost their land and sustenance but are being influenced by city culture to have small family and resort to abortions.

vii. The influence of mass media particularly cinemas and TV serials focus their attention on male child in families and promote patriarchal system. Advertisements promote small families to enjoy high standard of living The driving force set by the media is to limit the number of children, particularly with male children.

To conclude, *Children, Development and Training* is a well-organized and well thought-out and well-planned book offering many interesting insights for everyone interested in the upbringing and training of children.

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