

# The New Nation

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## Kindergarten affairs

WE have been printing in our campus page reports about the state of things in some kindergarten schools of the country. Tuition fees of these schools, already exorbitant, are raised in season and out of season without regard to paying capacity of parents and sometimes such enhancements are effected in the middle of the year when parents are unable even to exercise their option of withdrawing their wards from the school. These high tuition fees are reportedly not accompanied by any improvement in the standard of teaching and facilities. In establishing these schools, little investment is made for creating educational facilities and they lack even the nucleus of a library or laboratory and mostly do not provide transport.

The curriculum followed is not only disharmonious but also burdensome for little children. Little toddlers are given lessons which are disproportionate to their physical and mental growth. But there is little

class room teaching and children are required to master these difficult lessons at home. Nothing is done to kindle in the child a genuine interest in learning and those classroom and other activities which are so much valued in the west as stimulants to creativity, are as good as absent.

Despite so many manifest shortcomings and extortionate practices the kindergartens are flourishing because parents find no substitute for them. The kindergartens, especially the spurious ones, would be rendered unnecessary if the standard of teaching in the primary schools were improved. After the teaching of English came to be neglected in government schools these kindergartens became money-spinners. The redeeming feature of these kindergartens is that they teach English more elaborately than do the ordinary schools of the country and in this respect they fulfil a need. These kindergartens seem to manifest a basic imbalance in our education system. Parents do not get the kind of education they would want for their children and willy-nilly they turn to these expensive schools. Steps should be taken to stop the abuses in the kindergartens but it is only genuine improvement in the standard and method of teaching in

primary schools that can wean patrons away from those kindergartens which fail to provide good education at reasonable fees. Private schools should also be encouraged.