

# Early Childhood Education for Marginalized Children in India

*Deconstructing Quality*

Edited by

**Monimalika Day**

**Venita Kaul**

**Swati Bawa Sawhney**



Los Angeles | London | New Delhi  
Singapore | Washington DC | Melbourne

Copyright © Monimalika Day, Venita Kaul and Swati Bawa Sawhney, 2022

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or utilised in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage or retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher.

First published in 2022 by



**SAGE Publications India Pvt Ltd**

BI/I-I Mohan Cooperative Industrial Area  
Mathura Road, New Delhi 110 044, India  
[www.sagepub.in](http://www.sagepub.in)

**SAGE Publications Inc**

2455 Teller Road  
Thousand Oaks, California 91320, USA

**SAGE Publications Ltd**

1 Oliver's Yard, 55 City Road  
London EC1Y 1SP, United Kingdom

**SAGE Publications Asia-Pacific Pte Ltd**

18 Cross Street #10-10/11/12  
China Square Central  
Singapore 048423

Published by Vivek Mehra for SAGE Publications India Pvt Ltd and typeset in 10.5/13 pt Adobe Caslon Pro by AG Infographics, Delhi.

**Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data Available**

**ISBN:** 000-00-000-0000-0 (HB)

---

**SAGE Team:** Amrita Dutta, Shipra Pant

*Dedicated to every young child waiting to  
cross the margins.*

Thank you for choosing a SAGE product!  
If you have any comment, observation or feedback,  
I would like to personally hear from you.

*Please write to me at [contactceo@sagepub.in](mailto:contactceo@sagepub.in)*

**Vivek Mehra**, Managing Director and CEO, SAGE India.

### **Bulk Sales**

SAGE India offers special discounts  
for purchase of books in bulk.  
We also make available special imprints  
and excerpts from our books on demand.

*For orders and enquiries, write to us at*

Marketing Department  
SAGE Publications India Pvt Ltd  
B1/I-1, Mohan Cooperative Industrial Area  
Mathura Road, Post Bag 7  
New Delhi 110044, India

*E-mail us at [marketing@sagepub.in](mailto:marketing@sagepub.in)*

### **Subscribe to our mailing list**

*Write to [marketing@sagepub.in](mailto:marketing@sagepub.in)*

This book is also available as an e-book.

# Contents

<i>List of Illustrations</i>	ix
<i>List of Abbreviations</i>	xi
<i>Foreword by T. S. Saraswathi</i>	xv
<i>Preface</i>	xix
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xxiii

## Part I. Early Childhood Education in India: Quest for Quality

1	Challenges and Possibilities in Early Childhood Education <i>Venita Kaul and Monimalika Day</i>	3
2	Deconstructing Quality: Grounded Theory from Multiple Case Studies <i>Monimalika Day</i>	37
3	Curriculum in Multi-age Classrooms: Responding to Developmental and Contextual Challenges <i>Monimalika Day</i>	71
4	Early Childhood Education Teachers in India: Professionals or Volunteers? <i>Venita Kaul and Swati Bawa Sawhney</i>	100
5	Scaling Up and Contextualizing Early Childhood Education Quality: Negotiating the Paradox <i>Venita Kaul and Monimalika Day</i>	135

## Part II. Quality Preschool Programmes for Children in the Margins

6	Place-based Education in Himalayan Villages <i>Monimalika Day and Swati Bawa Sawhney</i>	163
---	---	-----

<b>viii</b>	Early Childhood Education for Marginalized Children in India	
7	Community-managed Balwadi-cum-Creches in Tribal Communities <i>Usha Abrol and Ratnamala Vallury</i>	186
8	Relationship-based Programme for Semi-urban Communities <i>Nandita Chaudhary and Shashi Shukla</i>	209
9	Educating Children from Urban Dalit Communities <i>Suman Sachdeva and Ashutosh Mishra</i>	231
10	Community-based Programme in Urban Slums <i>Usha Nayar and Reeta Sonawat</i>	253
11	Cooperative Preschools in a Cosmopolitan City <i>Usha Abrol and Chitkalamba N.</i>	274
12	Diffusion Model: Scaling Up Quality in Tribal Areas <i>Venita Kaul and Preeti Mahalwal</i>	296
13	Public-Private Partnership for Government Preschools in Rural Areas <i>Harini Raval</i>	321
	<i>About the Editors and Contributors</i>	345
	<i>Index</i>	353