Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge the input of the many academic collaborators who have accompanied us on the journey of our project. To do justice to them, we need to trace briefly the history of our collaborative endeavour.

Our journey from being partners in the collaborative research project 'Education and the Urban in India' in 2017, when we started out, to being editors of this volume in 2024 has been an intellectually enriching and deeply satisfying one. When the project began, we were interested in understanding the interface between urban transformations in India, a theme that was just beginning to be explored at the time. We began with conceptualising and carrying out our individual studies located in metropolitan cities within a broad theoretical framework. Subsequently, as we came to appreciate the diverse contexts and complex dynamics between urban forms, institutions, and changing aspirations historically and in contemporary times, we decided to broaden the scope of the collaboration. We brought on board scholars who were researching education in cities, peri-urban areas and small towns, and requested them to contribute from historical and contemporary perspectives to our working papers, which we published as an online series.[1] The aim was to bring together original research on a range of urban forms using diverse methodologies and perspectives that capture the changes in urban and educational contexts in India. Subsequently, we decided to publish some of the papers in this volume in a substantially revised, reworked and expanded form. We thank the authors of the working paper series and are grateful to the reviewers for their insightful and useful comments. Our thanks also go out to Yamini Agarwal, who coordinated the publication of the papers and provided invaluable editorial support; to the

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editorial team of the German Historical Institute London (GHIL), particularly Emily Richards, Jozef van der Voort and Angela Davies; and to the editorial team of the Max Weber Stiftung's online publishing platform www.perspectivia.net, especially Katrin Neumann.

Early into our work we were struck by the absence of conversations between scholars of urban studies and education studies, and we felt the need for interdisciplinary dialogues. We also saw the importance of providing a forum that could encourage research on the theme of our collaboration among younger scholars and doctoral students who were exploring new areas of research. Hence, in November 2018, we organised a workshop and masterclass at the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bengaluru, where early career scholars were invited to present their research, thoughts and ideas around the changing questions of urban and educational research. These were discussed by senior academics as well as reputed urban studies experts. We are thankful to Anant Maringanti, Lalitha Kamath, Amita Bhide, Mariam Dossal, Pauline Lipman and S. Srinivasa Rao for their valuable interventions at the workshop.

We presented and discussed the early findings of our research at a panel discussion organized at the GHIL in June 2019. We followed this up with an international conference called 'Education and Urban Transformations: Marginalities and Intersections', which was held at the GHIL in June 2022. The latter marked the completion of our five-year research collaboration. Participants in the panel as well as the conference included scholars of education in cities in the United Kingdom and other countries, such as Germany, South Africa, Argentina and the United States. These international comparisons were particularly important for our project as they enabled us to better understand our own research questions and theoretical concerns in a broader, comparative framework. We thank William Pink, Meg Maguire, Georgie Wemyss, Yusuf Sayed, Laila Kadiwal, Sylvia Grinberg and Isabel Ramos, who generously made time and effort to participate in the conference and the panel.

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Shivali Tukdeo
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Note

1. See Max Weber Stiftung, India Branch Office, https://perspectivia.net/receive/pnet_mods_00001041 (accessed 12 February 2025).

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