

#TAX IMPLICATION

Sugary Drink Purchases Fizzle Out

Sugar-sweetened beverages, such as sodas, fruit drinks, sports drinks, energy drinks, and sweetened coffee drinks, are the leading source of added sugars.



After excise taxes were placed on sugary drinks, purchases declined dramatically and steadily across five American cities.

Although other studies have evaluated the impact of sugary beverage excise taxes, taxes on a per ounce basis, in a single city, this is one of the first that estimates the impact of local excise taxes on purchases and prices of sugar-sweetened beverages across multiple large cities.

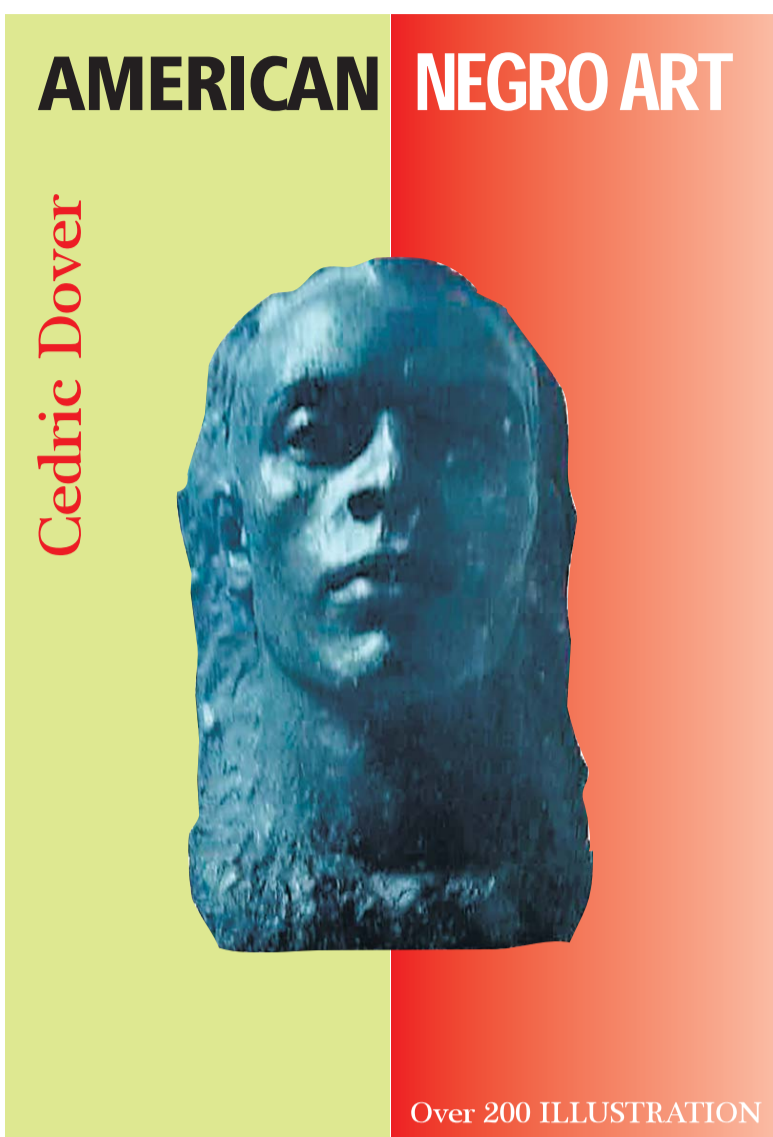
The cities included Boulder, Philadelphia, Oakland, Seattle, and San Francisco, all of which implemented taxes between January 1, 2017, and January 1, 2018.

Sugar-sweetened beverages, such as sodas, fruit drinks, sports drinks, energy drinks, and sweetened coffee drinks, are the leading source of added sugars in the American diet, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

They are associated with serious negative health outcomes, including type 2 diabetes, obesity, heart disease, kidney disease, non-alcoholic liver disease, gum disease, tooth decay, and other conditions.

Taxes on these types of beverages are promoted as a key policy to hold beverage companies 'accountable for' and 'reduce' the health harms associated with their products, but comprehensive analyses of such taxes have been difficult due to the absence of sufficiently large samples of data and methodological limit.

"Estimating a more general, more accurate impact of local sugar-sweetened beverage taxes in the US provides greater insight into the overall effectiveness of these taxes," says lead author Scott Kaplan, who is an Economics professor at the United States



#KADAMBARI SINHA

In 1948, a case came up for hearing in the California supreme court that challenged one of the very bases of racial segregation. The case was of *Andrea Perez*, a Mexican American woman. *Perez*, who was legally consid-

ered 'white' because of her Spanish heritage, had been denied the right to marry *Sylvester Davis*, an African American, because of California's *anti-miscegenation law*. An indignant *Perez* petitioned the supreme court, demanding a marriage licence. The court agreed. It struck down the miscegenation law as "unconstitutional" by a verdict of four to three. Justice Jesse Carter, one of the judges in the majority, wrote a 3,565-word judgement, explaining the decision, in which he chose to cite a book written by *Cedric Dover*, an Anglo-Indian, born nearly 3,000 miles away in Calcutta.

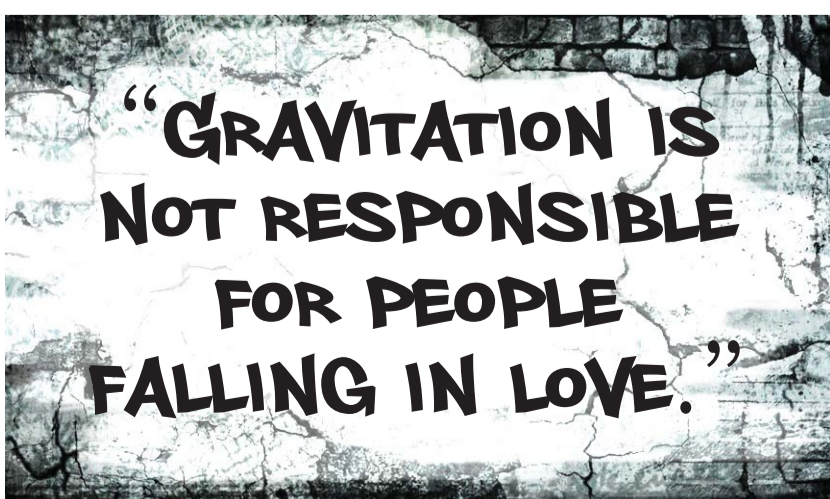
Justice Carter specifically quoted a paragraph from *Dover's Half-Caste* that spoke elegantly of human evolution. In the book, *Dover* wrote that humankind's Neanderthal ancestors could have possibly arisen from a "mixture between ape-men of the Ice Age," or its Neolithic forebears could have emerged from relations between Neanderthals and Aurignacian invaders of Europe. This means that miscegenation was present in that time.

The 'price increase and purchase decrease' appeared immediately after the taxes were implemented and continued to be sustained for months. At the same time, there was no evidence that consumers were travelling "bordering areas without sweetened beverage taxes," to make purchases there.

This study's findings suggest that "these taxes are quite effective in terms of health outcomes and societal cost-savings," *Kaplan* says. He hopes that this may lead to similar policy action in other locations across the country, and at the state and national levels, as was done with tobacco taxes. A previous study, co-authored by *Kristine A. Madsen* of UC Berkeley School of Public Health showed that tax revenue from sugar-sweetened beverage (SSB) excise in seven cities were used to support initiatives to improve community health, develop human and community capital, and advance equity.

Additional co-authors are from UC Berkeley, Boston University School of Public Health, the University of Toronto, and the University of California, San Francisco.

THE WALL



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An Indian Half-Caste



Cedric Dover.



W.E.B. Du Bois.

#THE HATED



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The judgement was arguably a sign of how influential *Dover's* book was at the time. Though an entomologist by training (his discovery of a mosquito repellent helped Allied soldiers during WWII), *Dover* wrote *Half-Caste* at the age of 33, while striving to promote equality and build "coloured solidarities" across races and nations. Historian *Nico Slate* quotes *Dover* as saying, "Where there is racialism, there can be no peace, and without the security of assured peace, sermons on racial equality will do no more than promote adjustment here and there."

One possible reason that *Dover* was attracted to issues of identity, community and belonging, was his own background. He was born in an Anglo-Indian family at a time when the community was derided by others. Perhaps spurred by this prejudice, he

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became an activist in the cause of *people of colour* (the "mixed races" in his parlance), who, to him, were the prime movers of culture and societal evolution, and yet were denied their rightful place in history.

Dover's work on mixed races, the "Half-Caste" of his eponymous book, drew in large part from *W.E.B. Du Bois*, the African-American thinker, whose books including the seminal "*The Souls of Black Folk*", *Dover* had first read as a young child in Calcutta. *Du Bois'* words that the "problem of the twentieth century is the problem of the colour line" resonated with *Dover*. Like *Du Bois*, *Dover* felt that the world's "coloured and colonised people" needed to present a united front.

The Early Years

Cedric Cyril Dover was born in April 1904 in Calcutta of Eurasian (or Anglo-Indian) parents, *Percy and Sophy*. On his mother's side,

his ancestry could be traced to the legendary soldier, *James Skinner* (1781-1841), who established two regiments in British India that bore his name. His father, a civil servant, died when he was just 12.

A voracious reader, *Dover* learnt early with his mother's encouragement to question the accepted thinking of his milieu. In his teens, he found a mentor in *Thomas Nelson Annandale*, the Scottish head of Calcutta's Indian Museum, who founded the Zoological Survey of India. *Annandale* helped him secure a scholarship to Edinburgh University, after *Dover* worked for a while at the Indian Museum. But the university stint did not last long. *Dover* was back in Calcutta by the early 1920s, where *Annandale* hired him at the Zoological Survey as an entomologist, while he also worked at the Asiatic Society of Bengal.

Dover's first book, written when he was 17, was on the

hymenoptera order of insects. Its long and distinguished title was *The Common Butterflies of India: An Introduction to the Study of Butterflies, and how to Collect and Preserve them*.

His entomological interests led to untrifling research and many scientific papers, some written jointly with *Mercia Heynes-Wood*, his first wife. As *Patrick Wright* details, *Dover* discovered a primitive ancestral crustacean, had an extensive collection of water insects, studied *spike disease* in sandalwood trees, and looked for ways to preserve wood from termite attacks. He had a lifelong, undiminished love for trees. Besides joining the *Men of the Trees*, a conservation organisation that became the *International Tree Foundation*, he wrote on forestation measures and the part that trees play in new cities and societies.

Dover had three children with *Mercia Heynes-Wood*. But in 1934, he effectively abandoned them in Calcutta and set off alone to London. It was here that his explorations of *race, colour and identities* really deepened. Joining *V.K. Krishna Menon's* India League, he lobbied for India's independence and extended the work of *New Outlook*, a magazine, he had founded with *Mercia*, in Calcutta. Their goal was to inspire

"Eurasians to join the struggle for Indian independence."

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Dover's last book, written a year before his death, in 1961, was an ambitious project titled "*American Negro Art*." It collated decades of art produced by African-Americans and argued that the corpus was not a subset of American art but an endeavour unto its own.

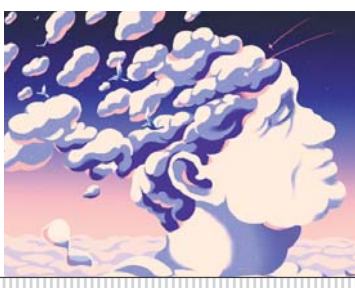
Professional Rise

His first book on the subject of "mixed races," *Cimmerii: Or Eurasians and Their Future*, was published in 1929, and detailed the "in-between position" of the Anglo-Indians in British India. Not part of the elite, they were scorned by everyone. Next, in *Kingdom of the Earth* (1931), he wrote a series of essays decrying "blind adherence to religion and cultural stultification."

At the age of 33, he published *Half-Caste*, his most acclaimed work. Prominent African-American thinkers, including educator *Alain Locke*, gave the polemical treatise rave reviews. *Malik Raj Anand*, a giant of Indian English writing, praised *Dover's* "scientific humanism" after reading *Half-Caste*. All this success encouraged *Dover* to speak more volubly for a "Congress of

Good Memory Day

The human brain is complex and unique, and the memory continues to be part of the brain that is difficult to understand. Scientists have been studying the brain and memory for many decades, making some progress but still having a long way to go. *Good Memory Day* was established to encourage people, to set aside time, to think positive thoughts that are related to events of the past. Whether it's remembering the delightful day that your baby was born on, or savouring the memory of the day you won that footrace in middle school, this is a great day for it!



Coloured and Colonial Peoples" after the World Peace Congress in Brussels in 1937. He described "the new colour movement that has become a realistic issue, impressed on us, by the similarity of our problems, by the parallel conditions created by imperialism, and economic domination, whether it be in Africa, America, or India or anywhere else."

While his work gathered accolades, his personal life remained unsettled. He married twice again, first to *Dorothy*, who travelled with him to the United States in the 1930s and 1940s, and then to *Maureen Alexander-Sinclair*, whose extensive collection of *Dover's* works, is still invaluable for the insight that it provides.

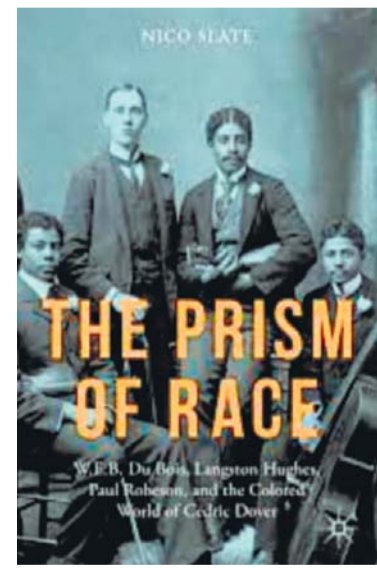
In 1938, *Dover* visited the US, where he met the man, who had shaped his political thinking since his young days in Calcutta, the African-American thinker, *W.E.B. Du Bois*. As *Nico Slate* writes, *Du Bois* and other notable figures like *Langston Hughes*, *Claude McKay* and *Paul Robeson* he met in the

scientist by the Malaria Bureau in the Malay states, came in handy again. The lotion called *Dover's Cream*, which had citronella oil mixed with cedarwood oil, white petroleum jelly and spirit of camphor, came to the rescue of Allied soldiers, who were fighting in the humid climes of Southeast Asia. Ever, a man of many parts, he also worked with *George Orwell*, *Venu Chitale* and *E.M. Forster* at the BBC, as radio broadcasts from London became crucial for boosting the Allied war effort in India.

After the war, *Dover* spent some years teaching at U.S. universities, namely *Fisk in Tennessee* and the *New School for Social Research* in New York. He tried to expand scholarly collaboration between Indian universities and America's historically black colleges, but his association with *Paul Robeson* and *Langston Hughes*, two cultural figures, persecuted by the US authorities for their leftward leanings, meant he could not stay on in the US.

Dover's last book, written a year before his death, in 1961, was an ambitious project titled "*American Negro Art*." It collated decades of art produced by African-Americans and argued that the corpus was not a subset of American art but an endeavour unto its own. *Dover* hoped this story of art, reflecting decades of struggle and resistance, would inspire others, and establish the solidarities that he spoke of, all his life.

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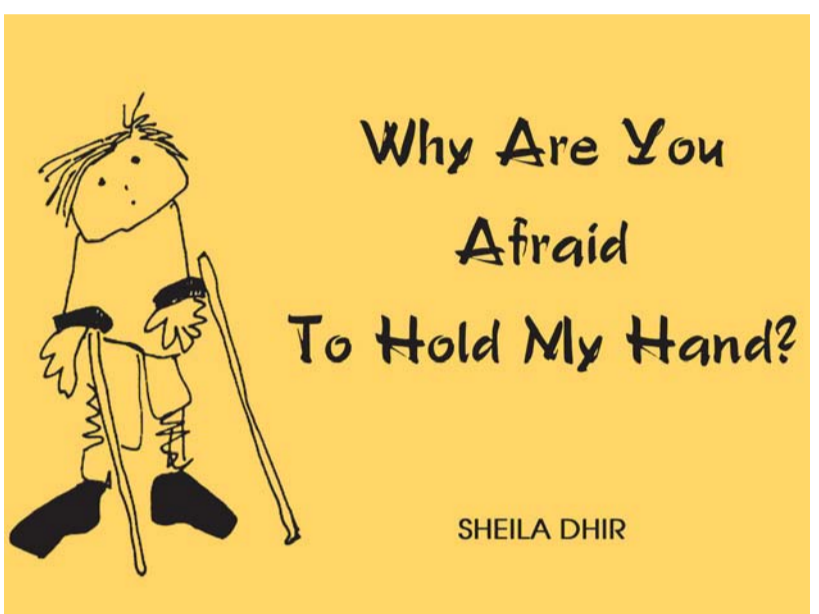
#INSPIRATION

Illustrated Children's Books From India, That Offer Perspectives, We Need

One of the biggest losses for young Indian minds is the lack of exposure to more rooted literature

Isn't it a little strange that Indian children, or that constantly classified "middle class," "English-medium schooled" bracket of Indian children anyway, can recite the last four Presidents of the United States of America by rote but seem rather surprised, if ever they're questioned about their lack of indigenous knowledge?

Post-colonial hangovers have brought their share of positives and negatives but perhaps, one of the biggest losses for young Indian minds is the lack of exposure to more rooted literature. But that hasn't stopped hundreds of incredibly gifted children's book authors and illustrators in the country from going ahead and creating some wonderfully pertinent children's stories either way. Scroll on to revert to juvenile fantasies!



SHEILA DHIR

Why Are You Afraid To Hold My Hand?

By Sheila Dhir

Right from the title to the illustrations, every single word in this book, echoes the hearts of disabled children as they make an ultimate plea for acceptance. The author has gone straight out to hit the bull's eye, with the title of this book, as unlike most of us adults, children are very literally

"afraid" of anything and anyone, who seems to defy their narrower idea of the normal. It's not that they do not want to, but rather that they are unable to handle an encounter with a disabled child. Covering in fear or displaying rude demeanour in the presence of the disabled, is their

defence mechanism to the seemingly unreal and this is where parents come in, to give them a reality-check. It is the quirky and self-explanatory illustrations, which aim to communicate that acceptance is not so much a personality trait as it is a habit.

The Why-Why Girl

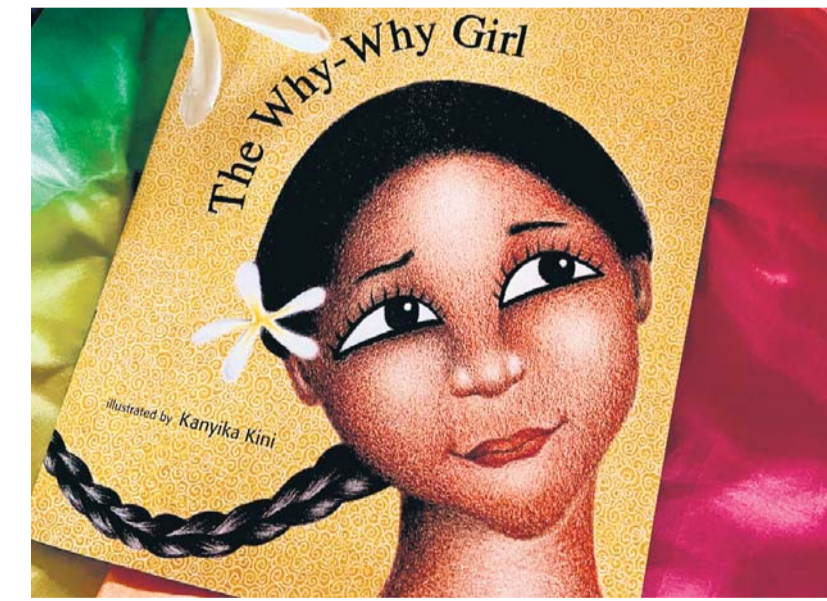
By Mahasweta Devi

Curiosity might've killed the cat, but that never stopped any child from asking the questions that seem to perpetually go off in their heads. Over the course of our little investigation, we came across this wonderful book that explores how our general reaction to the vast and seemingly unending curiosity of little children, is a lazy 'I don't know' or a dismissive 'Stop asking so many questions!'

In the sea of naysayers, emerges this book, that reflects decades of struggle and resistance, would inspire others, and establish the solidarities that he spoke of, all his life.

facilitate this growth. Through the lovely story about a curious little girl, who loves to ask questions before she learns to read herself, and find her own answers, children are encouraged to nurture their curiosity as a gift and resurrect that 'Why-Why Girl,' residing inside each and every of them.

The simplicity and juvenile innocence really comes through, in this book. Addressing what seems initially to be a trivial subject, it sheds light on the great impact that asking right questions and receiving mindful answers, can have, on the personality of children.



Barefoot Husain

By Anjali Raghbeer



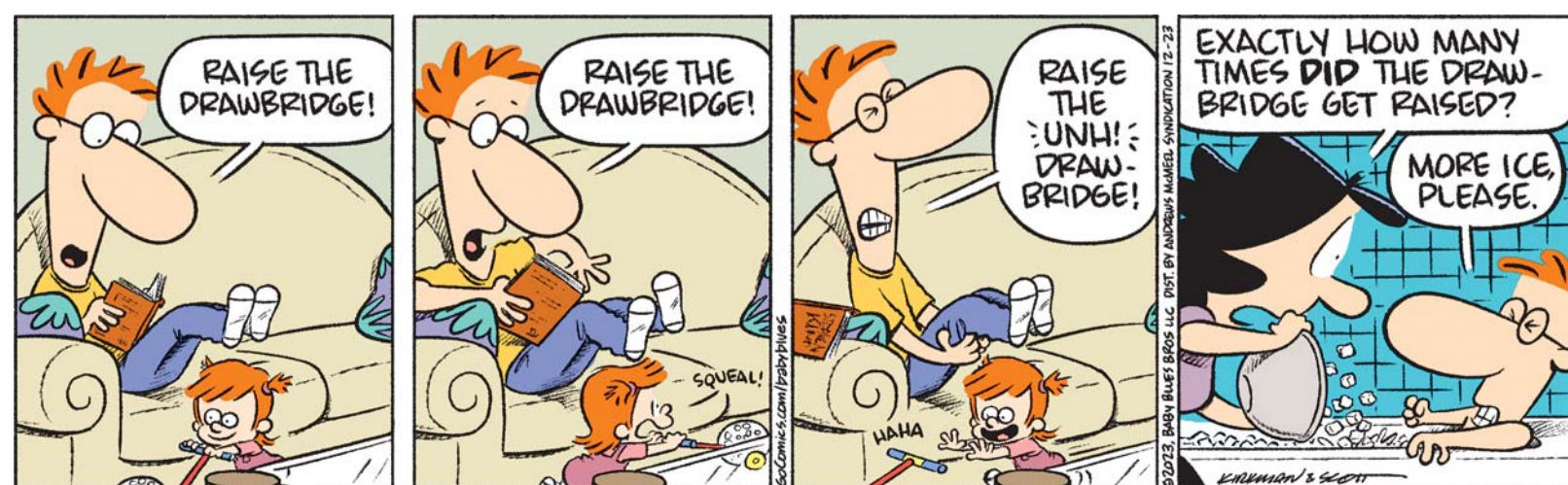
Fantasy is a genre that is, perhaps, one of the most instrumental aspects of opening up a child's mind and helping them explore the extent of their imaginations. This book is a great food for thought, in which the artist has lost his shoes and the protagonist, *Jai*, attempts to help him find them, in the best sort of magical fantasy for children.

They zoom in and out of some of the author's most famous paintings, discovering various themes, along the way and the story is punctuated with a nod to the artist's celebrated free spirit.

The fantastic and seamless blend of knowledge and fiction is narrated both, engagingly and imaginatively.

By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

BABY BLUES



ZITS

