

Matityahu (Matti) Dagan immigrated to Ashkelon from Morocco as a child, during the State's early years, and completed his high school studies and teacher training at Yeshivat HaDaron in Rehovot. He received his doctorate in Educational Administration from the Hebrew University. Over the decades, Dr. Dagan served in a variety of administrative positions in the education system, with his last position being the Director of the Religious Education Administration at the Ministry of Education. At the same time, he taught Educational Administration at Bar-Ilan University and Ashkelon Academic College, and was head of the Educational Administration track at Michlalah Jerusalem College. His book, *Hahinukh Hatzioni Hadati Bemivkhan Hazeman V'hatekufa* (5766) [*The Religious Zionist Education and the Challenges of Modern Time*, 2006], is an essential book on religious education in the State of Israel, and addresses the dilemma of *Torah im Derekh Eretz* ['Torah with the ways of the world']. Dr. Dagan invested great efforts in strengthening the periphery, and worked to raise the level of study and academic achievements in these areas.

This book discusses the topic of *teunei tipuah*\* students. The education system's struggle over the years with *teunei tipuah* students has been examined in many studies in Israel and abroad. However, this book, which draws on many years experience in the field of education and relies on extensive academic knowledge, offers a different kind of answer. Dr. Dagan offers his approach, according to which in both the present and the future, we should allow every student to complete his academic studies with full matriculation, and open up professional and academic possibilities to him. Referring *teunei tipuah* to "vocational" schools, which train them for blue-collar work instead of full matriculation studies, labels them as being of low-level ability. According to Dr. Dagan, only a courageous reform and uncompromising demands from the students could help them escape from the circle of *teunei tipuah*, and lead them to having equal opportunities in the face of twenty-first century challenges.

Dr. Dagan merited finishing his book just before his death, and passed away on 7 Kislev 5773 (21 November 2012).

\* The term *teunei tipuah* (sing: *taun tipuah*) literally means "in need of nurture" and was coined during the 1950s to refer to those children determined to be culturally disadvantaged due to ethnic and/or socioeconomic background, and, therefore, in need of special help from the education system.