PREFACE

My interest in school libraries developed since 1997, when I was appointed as Librarian of Hartley's High School, Kolkata. I realized that there was no up-to-date or in-depth study of school library situation in West Bengal. I therefore decided to take up the topic "An Evaluative Study of School Libraries in and around Kolkata" as a research project. I took up this as my Ph. D. topic when the opportunity arose.

The entire thesis has been divided into seven chapters. The First Chapter deals with the definition of Education, Education Systems that prevailed in Ancient, Medieval and Modern India, particularly the education at the school level and role of library in imparting education.

The Second Chapter describes the importance of libraries concentrating on importance of libraries in educational institutions particularly schools. It also states the Objectives of the thesis and the Methodology used.

The Third Chapter of the thesis reports on the 'reports' of the Committees and Commissions on Education in India that highlight the necessity and utility of school libraries. It also contains the observations of seven survey reports of National Council of Education Research and Training (NCERT) on school library.

The Fourth Chapter reviews the available literature on school libraries for past fifty years. The condition of school libraries in developed and developing countries have been traced. Particular attention has been paid to school library situation in India concentrating on West Bengal.

The Fifth Chapter contains the findings of two surveys on the same set of schools, carried out by me, at an interval of four to five years for temporal comparison. The resources contained by the school library, the processing of library materials and services offered are discussed in details. Findings of Higher Secondary Schools, Secondary Schools and Secondary Schools of the first survey which were transformed into Higher Secondary Schools in the second survey are analyzed separately and few tables are presented for clarification.
The Sixth Chapter presents the statistical analyses and graphical representations of the data found from both the surveys. The charts and maps are included.

The Seventh Chapter or the last Chapter consists of general discussion on school libraries with suggestions for improvement.

The Appendix I consists of the sample questionnaire used during the survey. Appendix II contains data obtained from the schools covered in both the surveys; Appendix III contains the data from the schools covered in the first survey only; and Appendix IV contains data obtained from the schools covered in the second survey only.

Lists of abbreviations and bibliography have been added.