PREFACE

Despite some significant exploration in Sociology of medical profession in recent years in India, there are some gaps which still need to be covered. Medicine as a profession has had its measure of public esteem in every society. Every society has its own system of medicine and medicinemen, who within their own limitations contribute to the physical welfare of people.

The present work is a pioneering attempt in understanding the worldview of two system of professionals i.e. Ayurvedic and Allopathic.

Methodologically, we have adopted two major methods; quantitative and qualitative. both survey and case study techniques have been used in collection of data. All these mutually interdependent approaches are appropriate for understanding Indian social reality.

Varanasi, as a locale of study has also been explored, as this was necessary to know the development of medical profession in this city, which is the traditional rock-bed of Ayurvedic system.