PREFACE

This doctoral research attempted to document a rehabilitation model for homeless mentally ill using an evaluation design. This has added knowledge to psychiatric social work literature on viable psychosocial rehabilitation process involving non-professional community volunteers. The study brought out the strengths and limitations of such centers and drew the relevance of such models in the context of low resource in the country, for rehabilitation of persons with persistent and severe mental illness. This has contributed to social work profession and psychiatry for developing programmes for homeless persons with severe and persistent mental illness. This has further identified limitations of existing policies on fostering such initiatives and discussed possible changes in the existing policies on mental health care. The study also suggested possible ways of involvement of social workers and schools of social work in these endeavors. The study being the first in the documentation of these unique rehabilitation facilities opened several new areas of research in this area of psychosocial rehabilitation. The findings also provided viable guidelines for the centers for care and rehabilitation of homeless mentally ill.
The study is arranged in eight chapters. The first chapter introduce the research topic in the broad arena of mental health. The second chapter reviewed relevant literature related to the study area. The third chapter discussed the methodology used for the study. The results obtained from the analysis are presented in the form of tables and figures in the Chapters 4 to 6. Chapter 7 focuses on discussing the key findings discussed in the chapters 4, 5 and 6 with reference to literature in relevant areas and delineates the implications for practice. The final chapter provides the findings and suggestions.