CHAPTER - 1

INTRODUCTION
Social work, as a discipline and a professional method, is the process of helping people to help themselves to become integral, independent, productive and authentic human beings. In the wider sense, it also aims at the restructuring of the present defective social systems and practices for the construction of a better world through widening the horizons of human existence and achievements. If this is to be effected, i.e., if tomorrow is to be a better and brighter one, today’s children and adolescents are to be focused, because they are the adults of tomorrow; the inheritors of the present civilization in the new millennium. For this, the urgent attention of both theoretical and practical social work is required with the Creativity of Adolescents, because it is their creativity, which is going to design and determine the future.

Today, adolescence begins earlier and lasts longer than ever before. In our specific Indian culture, where the family relationships are very strong - even with the adolescents - this stage covers the second decade of life and lasts very long. From being a short, relatively insignificant transition, adolescence has now become an extended period of preparation for life, a time for the training and education, that provides option for the individual’s future. Blos (1962), in his book ‘On Adolescence’, has called adolescence a “second individuation process”. According to Erickson (1963), adolescence is the most decisive period in the formation of the adult personality.

Adolescence is the most energetic period of development, ruled by the inquiring mind, roving curiosity, intellectual robustness and creative energy. It is
in this period where the instinctual creativity of childhood is replaced by the rational creativity with the help of operational and formal thinking. The convergent style of childhood will be challenged and divergent options will start to rule and guide them. This immense productive force in them is of vital importance to both the individual and society. If these abundant human resources are properly managed and channeled, the integral development of the individual and society can be accelerated to a great extent. But unfortunately in the present educational systems and stressful social set-up, this potential natural grace is not properly developed or constrictively utilized and so is either wasted or converted into a destructive force.

The spirit of the present, the emergence of new responsibilities, new social and cultural needs, and tumultuous social change, has made creativity a rapidly expanding area of scientific interest. In fact, creative insights are an essential part of the survival process and may hold the key to the prosperity and sustainable development of the future society. It is often said that the potential capacity to be creative is not a characteristic of a selected few, rather a process that is within everyone. It is a dynamic process in man that helps him achieve dignity and meaning in life. Creativity, at its highest level, has probably been as important as any human quality in changing history and in reshaping the world. It might be added that a creative individual could often accomplish much more at much less expense than other people.
This potential creativity becomes functional and productive on the basis of the self-concept, which enables or disables the functioning of the achievement motivation, which in turn determines the success or failure of human existence. In the world of rapid change and growth, existence is to be established in accordance with the pace of life determined by the informational, technological and scientific advancements. Currently there is competition for the very minds of men. Among those factors, which will determine the outcome of this competition, optimal utilisation of the potential creative capacity is the most important.

In the present socio-cultural context of institutionalized values where the potential creative abilities are forsaken, but highly essential, this natural abundant grace is in danger of institutionalization and convergence. The creative capacities of adolescents are forgotten or underestimated and so are not properly utilised. More than that the creativity is misappropriated to destructive activities. Hence, ADOLESCENTS’ CREATIVITY, a study with reference to the SELF-CONCEPT and ACHIEVEMENT MOTIVATION is of real importance.