PREFACE

Community Radio (CR) is a type of radio service that offers a third model of radio broadcasting beyond commercial and public service. CR stations can serve geographic communities and communities of interest. CR stations are operated, owned, and driven by the communities they serve. CR is not-for profit and provides a mechanism for facilitating individuals, groups, and communities to tell their own diverse stories, to share experiences, and in a media rich world to become active creators and contributors of media. In many parts of the world, CR acts as a vehicle for the community and voluntary sector, civil society, agencies, NGOs & citizens to work in partnership to further community development as well as broadcasting aims.

In India, the campaign to legitimise CR began soon after the Supreme Court of India ruled in its judgment of February 1995 that airwaves are public property. Anna FM is India's first campus CR launched on 1 February 2004. On 16 November 2006, the government of India notified new CR Guidelines which permit NGOs and other civil society organizations to own and operate CR stations. Today there are more than 141 operational CR stations in India.

CR broadcasting is one of the suitable example of participatory communication and the suitable tool of development communication. In terms of development of India the CR will be the suitable tool.

This thesis is comprises of six chapters.

Chapter I discusses the general outline of CR. CR’s evolution and importance is discussed in details. This chapter traces the evolution of CR to its present status over the world as well as India.

Chapter II of this thesis is dedicated as review of literature. The relevant research works conducted by the other scholars in India and abroad have been reviewed to get the overall picture and to get the opportunity to strengthen the research work with citing what other reliable researcher have said about the related topic.
In **Chapter III**, the researcher has tried to relate the CR broadcasting with a specific theoretical frame of mass communication as it gives direction to the research work. As it is known CR is the best suitable example of participatory communication. The research work is based on the participatory communication and its importance as an important tool of development communication.

**Chapter IV** exclusively discusses the Research Methodology part of this research study. The research design, population, sample, sample size, procedure of sampling, suitable instrument of this study and other important details related to research methodology is discussed in this chapter.

Data analysis and findings with detailed discussion is included in **Chapter V**. The data of all the four selected CR station is tabulated and analysed. The overall analysis with available data has been done separately which gives an overall picture of CR broadcasting in India.

Finally **Chapter VI** discusses in details the conclusion drawn from the findings and researcher has offered certain suggestions for adoption and implementation by the CR stations and concerned authorities.

This research study was carried out by utilizing data from secondary sources and primary data collected through survey work conducted by the researcher. While going about the survey work, the researcher had to face a few difficult situations while collecting data because many a times respondents were unable to respond effectively in the way they were expected to.

Another problem has been the non availability of any earlier research work in this direction which could has been taken as a source of data or as a guide for going ahead in the research process. Of course, in another way this could be termed as a benefit also as this has been made the researcher’s job more challenging. The researcher believes that these findings and suggestions if taken properly would deliver definite benefit to the CR stations working throughout India and abroad as well. This research work will give few insights for the better utilization of the CR concept in development of the Indian villages.