PREFACE

This is a thesis leading to an award of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the faculty of Mental Moral and Humanities (Social Work), submitted to the University of Pune, on the subject of “A Study of Impact of Globalization on the Socio-economic Status Neo-Buddhist Community in Akola District.”

Globalization is a complex and multidimensional concept. The entire globe is either affected or going to affect in near future by its good and bad effects. There are arguments for and against the globalization and its perceived impact on the lives of various sections of the society. It has been found that the poverty has increased during the post globalization period in most of the countries where these policies have been enacted. The era of globalization has also raised serious questions not only about the people’s livelihoods but also about the ethics and values that followed in the aftermath of globalization. The ‘empowerment of the people’ seems to be a deceptive concept and systematically propagated by the harbingers of globalization, particularly by the rich and powerful countries. The people are in fact disempowered on the name of globalization and people’s struggles in various part of the world has been undermined and oppressed by the rulers. The dismantling of the welfare state and the privatization of basic amenities has affected the lives of common man in general and the poor people in particular. The concept of an interventionist’s state is replaced by the state as a facilitator or regulator of economic activities and the entire economy is going to be managed by the markets whose only concern is to earn and maximize the profits by hook or crook.

During the past one and half decade, it has been observed that the corruptions, scams, scandals, decoity, atrocities against he vulnerable sections of the society have increased remarkably. This could also be attributed to the moral breakdown of the society and the efforts of creating a just, equitable and
egalitarian society as guaranteed by the Indian constitution has suffered a set back. After all few important questions are raised as: for whose benefits the globalization is? Do people need it? Are there any ethical considerations behind the globalization? Will it favor for the poor and marginalized populations? So on and so forth. It is high time to think of some alternatives or to remold the globalization in such a way that it will benefits everyone and peace and harmony can be established for a Nations economic, political and social stability.

The present study conducted in the Akola district of Maharashtra essentially probes into the various aspects of globalization and it’s Impact on the socio-economic status of Neo-Buddhist Community residing in Akola district. The study may be the first of its own kind which is purely a field based and empirical in approach. The researcher will be happy if the study succeeds in attracting the attention of the individuals, policy makers, thinkers, politicians, activists and social and economic insinuations whose only dream is to reconstruct the society based on equality, liberty and fraternity.

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