PREFACE

The progress of a nation depends on various factors including good governance and the alertness of its citizens. Much depends on an alert society. The people have an important role to perform in order to ensure transparency and an accountable administration. For this a basic prerequisite is knowledge and information.

People can be expected to discharge their rights and responsibilities only when they are aware of the same. This requires basic education in the first place followed by human rights education.

In a country like India, which is considered to be one of the leading democratic countries of the world, with a vast population and large size in dimension, providing human rights education, ensuring knowledge, skill and attitudinal change is considered very much essential. Despite a strong constitutional foundation based on human rights jurisprudence, as well as a sound legal system, large segment of the population are illiterate and below the poverty line as well.

Only when the people are aware of their basic rights and duties can they assert their rights. This calls for educating the masses, particularly on human rights issues which itself is a great challenge.

Concerned with this challenge, the investigator undertook the study to find out the status of human rights education in the country so as to identify the pitfalls and suggest remedies. With this purpose at hand the investigation has been carried out under eight chapters apart from the conclusion. A comparative approach has been adopted in the course of the investigation to
find out where the country stands in the contest of the international developments.

Apart from books and journals including case reports and annual reports of the National Human Rights Commission, recourse has been taken to the internet. Three questionnaires have been distributed among various segment of the population covering important institutions, individuals and NGOs. However, for lack of adequate response thorough analysis could not be undertaken but for arriving at certain observation by way of conclusions. In the course of the investigation extensive visits were undertaken to various parts of the country to obtain primary source of information. Records of a number of related institutions, both national and international, were perused at these places which included Kolkata, Delhi, Mumbai among others. To ascertain the outreach of human rights education in the North East India extensive visits were undertaken covering NGOs, civil society organizations and educational institutions as well.

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