Preface

The modern view of education focuses on all-round development in order to successfully face the practical problems of life. It is known to all that sound health is the primary requirement for sound mind and which is again the precondition for a healthy progressive society. Health education is the only branch of education which starts since the human foetus come in existence in mother’s womb and continues till his/her last breath in this earth. The major threat to the good health of the children in the developing third world comes from infectious diseases. Polio is one of the most dreaded childhood infectious diseases, which in general cripples the whole life of the victim. Its’ intensity of infection (both vertical and horizontal), increases in direct proportion with the poverty and lack of education. In India, the gap between the rich and poor is increasing day-by-day. On the other hand, education is becoming a purchasable commodity and the role of mass media has turned into entertainment agency without social responsibility. Although, their main objectives should have been to cater knowledge and information to the masses. This forces our common people to lead an ignorant and unhygienic life. This is the ideal condition where infectious disease like polio thrives.

According to Government reports (Justice Rajinder Sachhar Committee, 2006; Rangnath Mishra Committee, 2007; etc.), the Muslim community in India are the most backward in all socio-economic parameters of advancement (including education, economic condition, Government jobs, business, ownership of land, etc.). Our West Bengal state is inhabited by 27% Muslim population (approximately) and its Malda district, which is already listed as a backward district by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India, has a majority of Muslim population (52.05%).

This thesis deals with the impact of literacy on knowledge, attitude and belief towards polio disease among the Muslim Community of Malda district, West Bengal, in a total of six chapters.

The first chapter deals with the background knowledge, i.e., the introduction regarding polio disease – its literacy trend; status of Muslim community here; meaning and definition of polio; its causes and transmission; its history, prevention and eradication; features of Malda district; need to prevent polio; rationale of the problem; statement of the problem and the relevant references.

The second chapter delineates the relevant literature review conducted in India and abroad. Here concise discussions were made on Indian and abroad studies on knowledge, attitude and belief towards polio disease, keeping the focus particularly on the Muslim community. The relevant references are attached there.
Chapter three under the heading ‘The Problem’, discusses the research problem in detail, under the sub-title as - need and significance of the study; objectives of the study; assumptions; statement of hypothesis; null hypothesis; scope and delimitation of the study; tools used in the study; statistical techniques used; definition of the terms used and references.

The fourth chapter describes the methodology and procedure of this research work. The discussion encompasses the - general Introduction; design of the study; method; population; sampling; rationale behind the choice of sample; tools construction; variables; administration of questionnaire and collection of data; scoring techniques and references.

Data analysis, its interpretation and discussion are discusses in chapter five of this thesis. The chapter deals with - the presentation of data; analysis of data; correlation of attitude and knowledge about polio; analysis of beliefs about polio; discussion and references.

The last chapter, chapter six, deals with the summary and conclusion of the whole thesis. The discussion was made under the sub-headings as - need of the study; objective of the study; hypotheses; sample; tools; administration of questionnaire and collection of data; presentation and analysis of data; interpretation of result; conclusion; delimitation of the study; scope for future study.