PREFACE

Children are an important asset to the nation. The future of the nation depends on this particular section of the population. Although, over the past several years, the state and central governments in India have been implementing many child welfare programmes, systematic and scientific research attempts have not been made widely, on the mental health needs of the children. Among the mental health professionals also, apparently, there is an inclination more towards research on the mental health problems among adults. Very few researchers have focussed their attention on the behavioural/emotional problems of children. Even these researchers have restricted their studies to the children attending Child Guidance Clinics/Centres and to individual Childhood psychiatric disorders. A few research studies in the West have indicated that behavioural/emotional problems of different types are present even among the so called 'normal' children attending School. About 25 per cent of children coming to general practitioners actually suffer from some sort of behavioural/emotional problems. School social work has become an important aspect of the social work profession in the West. But in India, the social work professionals have not paid adequate attention to this vital aspect. This could possibly be due to a lack of clear understanding of the types of behavioural/emotional problems among the normal children and of management strategies.
The present exploratory study was undertaken with the aim of assessing the extent and types of behavioural/emotional problems among the school children. The researcher feels that the present study would provide the social work professionals with a deep insight into the matter. This would certainly pave way for the recognition, among social workers and others, of the need for greater emphasis on the practice of social work in school settings.