In the school-going population of West Bengal, particularly in the school-leaving class, there are more than half a million Bengalee adolescent girls and in the city of Calcutta the figure would lie in the neighbourhood of one-fifth of the state population. They are growing under the exposures and transactions in a swiftly changing social milieu of Indian democracy. After independence, a number of changes have been introduced in the curriculum of secondary education in our country, to equip the girls, to keep pace with the rhythm and progress of modern life. The number of girls' secondary schools have been increased ten times than it was within a span of two decades. But, it seems to me that all these are not psychologically tuned to the genuine demands of the society. In the ten-year long programme for citizenship training in the secondary schools most of the special problems of Bengalee girls have not yet received due attention, in general.

In our state, psychology has been included in the curriculum as an examination subject but our girls still remain deprived of the facilities of Psychological Service in school-leaving stage — when they confront a good number of puzzling situations in regard to their future life. Ever since my entry in the profession as a teacher in Psychology, I tried my best to convince different authorities about Psychological Service Project for the school students but failed — as they, pressed for
sufficient need-based data for a formal procedure. While attending a convention on the occasion of International Women's Year, 1975, quite a good number of my friends, associates and ex-students encouraged me seriously to do a survey work for identifying the adolescent girls' needs of the time and of our community in Calcutta. I started the work to serve the younger generation of our community and had never dreamt of its present form—a dissertation of a doctoral work.

It was one of those days in 1975, under the serious insistence of one of my friends, Dr. N.K. Bhattacharyya, Lecturer, at the Department of Applied Psychology, Calcutta University, I met Professor Sukumar Bose and discussed with him about a formal project for the scientific investigation on the facts of my interest. Prof. Bose not only helped me to develop a design but agreed to render me necessary technical guidance. I started my work. At the end of the year, he insisted me to approach Prof. S.N. Roy, Chairman of Applied Psychology Faculty of Calcutta University for his kind opinion about my investigation plan for a Doctoral Dissertation in the Applied Psychology Faculty. Prof. Roy had all the greatness to review critically my investigation plan, and encouraged me to submit the plan, with necessary changes, to the Ph.D. Committee of the University for formal approval. I am grateful to Prof. S.N. Roy for his valuable guidance.

Obtaining the authorities approval, I had to work keeping pace with the scientific methodology. I have done that all...
through to the best of my knowledge and ability — and I have no hesitation to admit my limitations also to the learned examiners of my dissertation. Their valuable criticisms will be my future guidance.

For my present work, I remain grateful to the authorities of the Board of Secondary Education, West Bengal; Office of the Education Directorate, Department of Education, of the State Government; and to the authorities and Heads of the Girls' Secondary Schools of Calcutta, all of whom rendered best possible help for collecting data and other relevant facts from their respective jurisdictions.

I am specially obligated to those 1200 girls, whom I had the opportunity to meet personally and discuss about the objectives of my programme in different occasions, who with best of interest and eagerness participated in the programme during the school hours with smiling faces.

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I submit this work to my learned examiners with a fond hope that I would receive their encouragement, as well as their valuable opinions regarding this Survey type of work, that I have conducted for the first time in our state and without getting any local reference about it. Their valued opinion will also help me to submit a Service Programme Project for the welfare of our younger generation in the Secondary Girls' Schools, on whom the future of our community depends.

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