The study presented here is the result of my research investigation as a Research Fellow in the University School of Psychology, Education and Philosophy, Gujarat University. It covers a period of investigation from November 1960 to November 1963. The specific purpose of this study is the construction of scales for the measurement of some dimensions of specific social issues. An attempt has also been made to review the literature on social attitudes with special reference to the methods for their measurement. The study is an extensive one for it involves the construction of scales covering five areas in the realm of social attitudes.

Interest in this work was generated by an earlier study conducted by the author on "Social Attitudes and Voting Behaviour of College Students". Originally it was planned to carry the work further by studying the social attitudes of various linguistic groups. But the purpose was defeated due to the non-availability of adequate scales. A need was therefore felt to have scales which would cover a comprehensive area of social attitudes, standardised under Indian conditions, and constructed in the national language, namely Hindi. Thus, the present study emerged with the above objectives in view. The practical implications of this study are consequently manifold. These scales will certainly enable us to
assess the attitudes of our people on certain social issues.

Relevant material from work by experts in this and related fields, especially in the composite field of social psychology, has been duly consulted. Special attention has been given to the various methods of attitude scale construction with a view to their application in the present study. Equal attention was devoted to the compilation of important social issues as they are prevalent in our social set-up and which are considered to be worthy of measurement. All this effort has been concentrated towards the construction of social attitude scales which could be wide as well as comprehensive in scope.

The scales constructed in this study are: (i) Social Progressivism Scale; (ii) Economic Progressivism Scale; (iii) Nationalism-Internationalism Scale; (iv) Religionism Scale; and (v) Tough-mindedness-Tender-mindedness Scale. On a minute perusal of these it becomes at once obvious that they do envelope the major areas in the field of social attitudes.

It is also the author's hope that this study has made its own significant contribution in the construction of scales in Hindi, the National language of our country. It must also be mentioned that the method adopted in this work is a rigorous and scientific one. It is the method adopted by Edwards and Kilpatrick in 1943 and is known as Scale - Discrimination - Technique. Some modification, however,
have been introduced in the procedure. This method has been found by research workers to be very effective, for it embodies the techniques of Thurstone as well as of Likert. In doing so it provides a double check on the validity of the scale.

Although a very large amount of material has been collected during the course of the investigation, it was not feasible to include it all in this thesis. The scope too can be further increased to include a small attitude study of some specific groups to see whether the scales are adequate in tapping the attitudes of various groups. It may also be useful to know whether there are any age, sex and educational differences etc. It would take several more years to do all this and thereby obtain an additional measure of validity of the scales on groups known for their attitudes. Moreover, a number of checks have already been provided to ascertain their validity. But validation on known groups can certainly add additional information to the validity statistics so far obtained. It would also be very interesting to conduct a factor-analysis study and find out the operation of some general factor or factors. It is hoped that additional work along these lines will be undertaken by other research workers.

In the conduct of this investigation, the author experienced two great handicaps; (i) non-availability of some useful references on work done elsewhere. However, a large number of studies done in India and abroad have been widely consulted. (ii) non-availability
of supporting staff in the collection of data and computation of results. All the work in this connection had to be done by the author, single handed.

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(Miss. K.K. Singh)