Adult Education is a package of educational programmes for adults outside the formal educational system. It aims at providing information, knowledge and skills for improving their life-style. It also seeks to give the adults the kind of awareness they need to function as dignified and enlightened citizens.

The objective of Adult Education is to enable people to become confident and self-reliant by understanding the situation in which they live and by solving their problems. Its purpose is to educate the adult for life so that he can effectively and efficiently play his various roles as a wage earner, a parent, a member of the society and as a citizen of his country. Thus, Adult Education is an instrument of development and progress leading to social change.

The scope of Adult Education is as wide as life itself. Its requirements are different from those of normal school system. The successful running of Adult Education Programme and its impact on adult learners depend upon the support it receives from several agencies, particularly the Universities, the Government Institutions and Voluntary Organisations. The effectiveness and efficiency of the programmes of Adult Education, irrespective
of the type of organisations, again depends on a competent administrative and management machinery.

An attempt is made in this direction in the present study. The dissertation aims at providing a peep into the Management of Adult Education Programmes in Anantapur District during the period between 1986-87 and 1990-91.

The study has been divided into six chapters. The first chapter deals with the concept of Adult Education, tracing its origin, growth and development through the seven plan periods that preceded. The second chapter is concerned with design and methodology of the study. The third chapter focuses attention on Adult Education Programmes in Anantapur District — general background of the district, its population, the organisational patterns of the agencies involved in Adult Education Programmes, the Adult Education Centres and the finances of Adult Education Programmes. The fourth chapter gives a brief account of the Adult Education functionaries in Anantapur District. The fifth chapter seeks to evaluate and analyse the impact of Adult Education on selected learners in the district. The sixth chapter offers a summing-up of the findings of the dissertation giving some suggestions for the effective functioning of Adult Education Programmes in Anantapur District.