PREFACE

Since long past voluntary organisations have been rendering services for welfare of weaker and vulnerable sections of the society. Voluntary organisations and their activities have been some important subjects of study for scholars of different disciplines. The present study was carried out involving 38 voluntary organisations of Kamrup district of Assam that are working for welfare of children. The study was done under the Department of Anthropology of Gauhati University in pursuit of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. A large number of individuals as well as institutions and organisations helped and assisted me in completing the project.

At the very outset I put on record my heartiest thanks and gratitude to my supervisor Dr. Birinchi K. Medhi, Professor and Head, Department of Anthropology, Gauhati University, for guiding and helping me to undertake the study. Although a meticulous person himself, he had to bear with my inadequacies, slow progress and erratic schedule of work. I would remain ever indebted to him because without his learned guidance the study would not have seen the light of the day. I am also grateful to all my other reverend teachers of the Department of Anthropology of Gauhati University who actually introduced me to the wonderful world of anthropology. I am thankful to each one of my teachers for their suggestions and encouragement during the course of my present work. This study, perhaps, could not have been completed without the constant inspirations that I received from my superior Mr. P.K. Bhattacharjee, Regional Director, National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development, Regional Centre, Guwahati. He not only encouraged me and strengthened my resolve to carry on with the
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All the credits of typing, printing and doing all related work for finally producing the report goes to my colleague Shri Bijoy Dey. He worked tirelessly to bring out the
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I also undertake that no part of this thesis or the data contained here have been used or submitted by me to any other institutions for any purpose.

(Dip Kumar. Saikia)