PREFACE

In common parlance disability summarizes varied functional limitations and activity restriction at the level of an individual. Moreover, one’s perception and instinctual response to the phenomenon of disability is profoundly shaped by social values and beliefs, which categorize between the ‘able’ and ‘disabled’ body. This categorization lies within the ambit of social, cultural, economic and historical matrix. If disability is considered in terms of a natural phenomenon which might happen to anyone, then the disabled people are less likely to be perceived as the object of victimization; but the common trend in almost all societies is that the disabled are regarded as ‘deviant’ in all respect. The present study was carried out with the intention of understanding the overall situation of the disabled in Assam with particular reference to Guwahati. It examines the perception of the society regarding the disabled as well as the view of the disabled individuals towards others. The study also concentrates on the hindrances on the way of
the disabled people, and the role of government and other agencies including the special schools towards overall development of the disabled population of the society. The disabled individuals who had been considered in this study were primarily students belonging to a number of special schools located within the Guwahati city. In addition to these students, a few disabled persons who were directly or indirectly concerned with any of these special schools were also included.

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(Aref Zaman)