In the seventeenth century Francis Bacon observed, "Reading maketh a full man" and since then the sentence has been often quoted as a maxim and has gone into the blood and bones of mankind. He enumerated many functions of reading the chief of which is "to enlighten the mind". By this he meant full understanding or comprehension of what is read.

In the second quarter of the twentieth century, many investigators in foreign countries began to explore the field of reading. Their findings reveal that many a problem of students in school, whether academic or psychological, can be ascribed to their reading disability. Chandler observed that reading disability was frequently a first sign of delinquency. Looking to the gravity of situation caused by reading disability, the investigators further directed their efforts towards locating the causes of reading difficulties. One of the factors discovered was the readability of the reading material. This in turn, inspired a number of researches on readability of reading materials in foreign countries, some of which are cited in the present report. In this connection,

however it is sad to note that there is not much work done in this area in India. This is clear from the fact that Dr. M.B. Buch's (Ed.) "A Survey of Research in Education"\(^3\) has mentioned only two researches carried out on readability. Of course, sporadic attempts have been made on the problem of reading like "reading readiness", "reading comprehension", "Vocabulary" etc. The phenomenon of reading disability, however, deserves greater attention because the problem of the readability of material is further accentuated by the fact that due to the nationalization of text books, only one text book of a subject is available for use in our schools, leaving no scope for the teachers to select text books of appropriate readability level for their students. The area of readability of text books thus remains almost unexplored in India.

The study demanded not only a "will to work" and ceaseless efforts on my part but also active co-operation of many others. I was fortunate in getting such co-operation in every phase of the study. I take this opportunity to acknowledge this help.

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