Preface

Reforms and innovations are the basis for change in every society. They assume their importance in bringing a desirable alteration in the existing order. The education system in India has witnessed many transformations during last few decades. Many innovations have been introduced in the system in order to overcome the apparent inadequacies. Some of them have been institutionalized leaving a sustainable impact and some of them have simply faded away without any significant result. The role of the teachers in institutionalizing the innovations has a special significance. There is a two way interaction between the innovations and the role of teachers. In one way teachers are seen as the change agents upon whom initiation, implementation and effective utilization of innovations rests. On the other way the innovations and their resulted changes contribute to their professional development. The practice of innovations directly or indirectly contributes to improve the knowledge and the skills of the teachers. The researches on professional development of teachers have produced ample evidences to this effect. Nevertheless, the attitude, perception, and willingness to receive the upcoming change is required on the part of the teachers. They are inevitable if the teachers have to keep pace with the rapidity of change that makes the knowledge obsolete in every other day.

An attempt has been made in the present study to assess the impact of sustained changes resulted through innovations on the professional development of teachers working in the elementary school system.

The first chapter of the study presents a theoretical background of the problem, contextual variables, review of related researches, significance of the problem, objectives, hypotheses and delimitations. The second chapter deals with development of the tools and devices for gathering necessary data for the study. The third chapter concerns with the methods and procedure of conducting the investigation. The fourth chapter has been devoted to analysis and interpretation of the data and discussion of the results obtained through the study. In the fifth chapter, summary, conclusion and educational implications of the study as well as suggestions for further research have been discussed.