PREFACE

A nation cannot claim to be free from the problems of physical and mental retardation. Despite low percentage of incidence, in an overpopulated developing country like India, the problem of retardation is quite serious. Rehabilitation of a person with handicap is as much a social and psychological need as it is an economic necessity. The study of Institutions for Disabled Persons is a neglected subject. Institutions for disabled persons provide prevention, respite, care, protection, education, training, rehabilitation or any other service for persons with disabilities. Wai Akshar Institute has been playing an important role since 1982 in the field of education, training and rehabilitation of disabled persons in Maharashtra State. My personal contact with the disabled persons initiated me for doing an indepth study of the working of Wai Akshar Institute, Wai the District Satara and assess its performance.

I sincerely acknowledge my indetness to my guide, Dr. K. V. Bachute, without whose valuable guidance and constant encouragement, this work would not have been possible. It was he who inspired me to complete this work.

I am thankful to Dr. C. G. Nalavade, Principal, Kisan Veer Mahavidyalaya, Wai, Dist. Satara who has constantly encouraged me to proceed further. I express my sincere gratitude to Dr. J. S. Choudhari, Head of the Department of Commerce and Management, and all the staff members of my college for their guidance and co-operation during my research study. ;

I am very thankful to, the President of Wai Akshar Institute, Wai Prof Vijaykumar Farande, who was kind enough to give me permission to join the Master of Philosophy course. I am particularly indebted to Dr. Panditrao Tapare, Secretary of Wai Akshar Institute who constantly let me moral support.

I cannot forget to place on record my thanks to Dr. Ashutosh Pandit Director, of Wai Akshar Institute, Wai and Principal of Shrimati Puribai Chenrai Alwani School for Mentally Retarded Children, who helped me editing the script and made constructive suggestions from time to time.

I am also thankful to the Heads of the departments of various activities of Wai Akshar Institute and the teaching staff as well as the non-teaching staff employed in various activities of Wai Akshar Institute, parents of mentally retarded children, beneficiaries of Wai Akshar Institute, all who provided the information as and when it was needed.

I thank my peloved parents, members of my family and my wife Sou. Kavita, for the sustained encouragement and help given to me for the successful completion of this dissertation. There are many more who extended help directly and indirectly. I am indebted to all these persons.

I must thank Surabhi Computers, Wai for typing the script in neat form.

R. S. CHAVAN

Date :26, June, 1998

Place: Wai

;