PREFACE

The study entitled **Child Labour in Silchar Town: A Sociological Study** is an attempt to understand the phenomenon of child labour in Silchar town. The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 1986 prohibits the engagement of children, less than 14 years of age, in the employment in shop, commercial establishment, workshop, farm, residential hotel, restaurant, eating house, theatre or other place of public amusement or entertainment. In Silchar, a large number of child labourers are found in the transport sector, domestic sector, hotels and stalls and motor workshops. This striking phenomenon has been subjected to scientific investigation in the present study, focusing on structural bases and work and work conditions of the child labourers in different sectors of employment.

The study comprises eight chapters. Chapter 1 titled **Introduction** presents the problem, research strategy, research design and methodology of the study. Chapter 2 titled **Child Labour in India** describes nature, magnitude, structural conditions and impact of child labour in India. Chapter 3 titled **Field of the Study** introduces the Silchar town in historical, regional, demographic and developmental perspectives to contextualize the study. Chapter 4 titled **the Child Labour in Transport Sector** focuses on the socio-economic conditions as well as work and work conditions of the child labourers in the transport sector. Chapter 5 titled **the Domestic Child Labour** discusses the socio-economic conditions as well as work and work conditions of the domestic child labourers in domestic sector. Chapter 6 on **the Child Labour in Hotels and Stalls** describes the socio-economic conditions as well as work and work conditions of child labour in hotels and stalls. Chapter 7 titled **the Child Labour in Motor Workshops** depicts the socio-economic conditions as well as work and work conditions of child labour in motor workshops. Chapter 8 **titled Summary, Findings and Conclusion** concludes the study along with its findings.

The findings of the study reveal that the practice of the child labour denies the all round development of the children. These children discontinued their studies at a very tender age due to poverty. Attitude of parents and employers towards child labour is also not in favour of their

development. The poor parents treat them wage earners. As they are small and physically weak, employers appoint them at a very low wage. Therefore, the child labour is a dark side of development and in order to dispel this darkness, the government has to see that the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 1986 is implemented in an adequate manner for eliminating child labour from the society and poverty, illiteracy and ignorance in the population of the country are addressed by adopting appropriate measures.