

# Foreword



Having made a mark in providing ICT based-services to significant parts of the developed world, India has begun focusing over the last decade to proliferate usage of ICT in every aspect of life of its citizens. While most of the youngsters readily adapt to the host of electronic devices available today, irrespective of the region and educational background that they come from, this is not true for the elderly population. The aged, in particular, and especially if their educational background is limited, find difficult to master and use different devices readily. Poor-eyesight, stiffness of limbs, inability to move their fingers as rapidly and similar such limits that emerge with age, makes the user-interfaces, available with these

new devices, difficult to use.

This book comes in as timely reminder to limits of technologies and human-machine interface, which have been developed without taking into account needs of this section of population. As discussed in the book, “the diversity of language, culture, and geography” in India, makes it particularly important to address this aspect. The study further points out that the solutions do exist; just that sufficient attention has not been paid to them in India. Further, with their technological abilities, India’s young IT professionals are in advantageous position to address this problem and make design of inclusive human-machine interface as an integral part of all its development work. If they are able to do that, they would not only address this problem for India but “technologies developed for common people of India will find useful applications in other developed countries.”

The book, for the first time, does a systematic study of human-computer interface for the aged population in India in different parts of the country. It has sufficient data for one to begin understanding the problem. In that sense, it will be a useful study for young students and scholars who wish to train themselves in this field or in developing IT solutions for common people of India.

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A Case Study of Developing Inclusive Applications for  
the Indian Population

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