ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author acknowledges her deep sense of gratitude to her esteemed supervisor, Dr. (Mrs.) Hemant Lata Sharma, Professor, Directorate of Distance Education, Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak for her valuable guidance, constructive criticism and analytical approach and ever-lasting interest taken throughout this investigation in a warm and self-offering atmosphere.

I express my sincere thanks to Dr. (Mrs.) Indira Dhull, Professor & Head, Department of Education, Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak for her indispensable help and encouragement in finalizing the topic and synopsis, without whose support it could not have been possible to complete the study in such a fine manner.

My thanks are also due to the faculty members and staff of the Department of Education, Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak for their co-operation in making this research work an easier exercise.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my family members, specially my Father, relatives and close friends, who faced the brunt of this venture gracefully. While expressing gratitude and thanks I can not miss my husband Dr. R.K. Verma who stood like a pillar behind me in the face of every odd.

The Girls students of Govt. College, Hisar and Senior Secondary Schools, Hisar deserve special appreciation for sparing their time, and disclosing their personal secrets leaving aside all the whims and breaking the barricades of the society while undergoing various tests required for this study, without which the very initiation of this study could not have been dreamed of.

I would like to thank Principals of the respective institutions for allowing the study and teachers for providing a congenial and conducive atmosphere and the co-operation extended during the process of investigation.

(Neena)