ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This dissertation was possible with the helping hands of certain individuals.

With a deep sense of gratitude and appreciation I wish to thank:

➢ The almighty for granting me the physical, cognitive and financial resources to complete this research work.

➢ Dr. (Sr.) Rosy former Principal and the current Principal Dr. (Sr.) Sarguna Mary, Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli for their support during the entire period of my research work.

➢ Dr. (Sr.) Maria Kamalam, Reader and Head, Department of Rehabilitation Science, Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli, my guide and supervisor for her guidance, refining the conceptual framework and being considerate.

➢ Dr. Umesh Samuel, Reader, Department of Social Work, Bishop Heber College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli, member in my research committee, for his assistance in statistical and technical details involved in this research work.

➢ Dr. T. K. Swatantra Devi, Director, Bharathidasan University College (W), Orthanadu, member in my research committee, for her useful suggestions, comments, support and encouragement.

➢ Mr. Xavier, Lecturer, Department of Statistics, Loyola College, Chennai, for his tireless assistance in painstakingly explaining the
statistical procedures to me, refining my use of the SPSS package and carrying out the statistical analysis.

- Dr. Mohan Verghese Chunkath, I.A.S., the former Special Commissioner for the Disabled, for granting me permission to collect data from the various schools for the disabled.

- Mr. Shanmugam, Secretary, Integrated Education Implementation Committee, Madurai, for his invaluable assistance in data collection.

- The heads, teachers and above all the visually and hearing impaired adolescents for their whole hearted cooperation during data collection.

- Dr. (Mrs.) Rajathi, Reader, Department of Zoology, Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli and Ms. Preena Lynette, Research Scholar, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, Kerala, who initially taught me how to use the SPSS package.

- Mrs. Nagalakshmi, Mrs. Cresenta Shakila Motha, Mrs. Joicy Manickam and Sr. Lourdu Mary, Lecturers in the Department of Rehabilitation Science, Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli, for their assistance in translating the scales into Tamil and for their constant support.

- Mrs. Turin Martina, Lecturer in the Department of Rehabilitation Science, Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli, for her assistance in translating the scales as well as the abstract into Tamil and in the administrative procedures involved in research work.
Mrs. Flora Shanthi Baliah, former Reader in the Department of English, Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli, for correcting the language errors which has made the final draft almost error free.

Mrs. Malati for her untiring assistance in coding and loading the data.

Dr. Lethi, Dr. Shakuntala, Dr. Jeyamani, Dr. Nirmala, Mrs. Mena and Mrs. Suseela for their constant motivation, encouragement and support.

Mrs. Mahalakshmi, Supportive Staff, Department of Rehabilitation Science, Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli, for helping me in the Tamil translation of the scales and typing them as well as neatly printing this thesis.

Ms. Fatima Mary, Mr. Sam Manohar and Ms. Antony Nirmala, Supportive Staff, Department of Rehabilitation Science, Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli, for their generous support during my research work.

My mother, sisters who were there for me at all times during this research work and my brother who presented me with a laptop especially for this purpose.

All those people who have helped in their own special way.

KANAGALA UMA