ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

A dissertation like this, is never the work of anyone alone. The contributions of many different people, in their different ways, have made this possible.

First and foremost let me Thank God for the wisdom and perseverance that has been bestowed upon me during my work, and indeed, throughout my life, I can do everything through him who give me strength.

I would like to express my gratitude to my guide Dr. Nagraj Rao, whose expertise, patience, vast knowledge and skill in many areas, assistance in writing reports which made it possible for me to complete my research work.

Dr. Harsh Khanna; my guru, I am extremely grateful to you for your help, encouragement and unwavering faith you have in me and providing me with the opportunity to undertake the Ph.D. in the first place and for your continued support and reassurance over the years.

A very special thanks goes out to Dr. Lata Menon, a mentor and friend without whose motivation and encouragement I would not have considered doing my Ph.D.

I would like to express my deep gratitude and Thanks to my sister, Dr. Usha Ajithkumar, who has been my advisor, guide, source of inspiration and with her unselfish and unfailing support this thesis would not have been possible. She was always there as a pillar of strength for me, solved all my problems on the journey of completion of my thesis work.

The Principals of various Secondary school and Higher secondary school, for their generosity in allowing me to collect data. Mr. Ajay Saraf for his patience and help for statistics, the librarians of University of Mumbai for letting me browse through the reference books.

Thanks to Dr. Vinod G. Tibrewala, Chancellor, Professor D.D. Agrawal, Vice-Chancellor, Shri Balakrishnan Tibrewala, CEO, Registrar Dr. R.C. Kumawat, Associate Professor and Dean of Education and all the coordinators of JJT University for their constant support and guidance in completing my work.
Thanks to my supportive friends, Dr.Vinayak Raje, Mr. Deepak Bansod, Ms. Janet D’souza and Mr. Ashok Pujari who were always a great support in all my struggles and whom I could always talk about my problems and excitements.

My father who has been showering his grace on me from the far sky. My mother and brother who has always expressed a keen interest in my research work and for their continuous love and support.

The biggest of the Thanks to my husband, Mr. V. Balachandran who I cannot thank enough for the opportunities he has given me, the constant encouragement he provides and for always being there for me. I am so fortunate to have a Husband like you, who is supportive and motivating in equal measures. My Son, Mr. Ashish Balachandran for his constant time management, new techniques and ideas, all the support you gave me, and the patience you had in completing my work. My daughter, Ms. Vaishnavi Balachandran the star of my eyes who typed the entire thesis and for understanding and supporting me on this wonderful journey and my nephew and niece for their concern.

Finally this work, I dedicate to my God and millions of youngsters in our country who will take utmost care of our Environment for Sustainable development.

Sumathi Balachandran