ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It takes a long time to write a Ph.D thesis though not as long as it takes to lay some rail track, surprisingly. I would here like to express my thanks to the people who have been very helpful to me during the time it took me to write this thesis.

This thesis would not have been possible without the help, support and patience of my learned supervisor Dr. (Prof.) C.P.S. Chauhan, not to mention his advice and unsurpassed knowledge of research methodology, measurement and evaluation and statistics. His good advice and support has been invaluable on both academic and personal level for which I am extremely grateful.

I sincerely acknowledge the cooperation of Prof. Nabi Ahmed, Chairman and Dr. Gunjan Dubey, Reader, Department of Education.

I lack words to convey my moral gratitude to my maternal uncles Mr. Prabhat Sharma and Mr. Virendra Lavania, and my respective in-laws for their invaluable support and association that led me to carry out the present research work and for providing me unrelenting affection, fruitful discussions and other valuable suggestions. I would venture to acknowledge my being whatever I am to my mother, Ms Madhuri Sharma for her care, cooperation and affectionate guidance.

For this research, data were essential. Collecting data is invariably a trying experience. Thanks to the following people in particular everything turned out alright: my brother-in-law Mr. Pramod Parashar and my colleagues Hilal, Neetu, Khushboo, Tabassum and Sushma.

No words can be sufficient to express my utmost gratitude to my husband Mr. Vijay Kumar, who greatly assisted me in many ways during the progress of this work, whose affectionate painstaking support, inspiration with optimism kept me stimulating to work hard and better throughout my doctoral work. Especial thanks to my four year old daughter Ivy, who missed my love and affection during my long hours of thesis writing.

Cooperation of Mr. Mohd. Asif of Education Department cannot be ignored, without his help and moral support this thesis would not have reached to the stage of completion.
I also extend my sincere thanks to library staff of the Department of Education especially, Ms. Jahan Ara and others for their constant help and cooperation.

Lastly, the financial assistance provided by the University in the form of University scholarship is thankfully acknowledged.

Date: (Ritu Sharma)