ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and foremost I wish to thank my supervisors Dr. Bimal Kanti Sen and Dr. Chaitali Datta for their continuous intellectual support, encouragement, and feedback, which made this thesis possible.

I would also like to thank the PhD Committee Members of The Department of Library and Information Science, Jadavpur University for their time, support and advice.

I sincerely thank the Personnel of PhD Committee Cell of Jadavpur University for their time and support.

I am especially grateful to Dr. S.K. Bhandari, Professor at the Applied Statistics Division at Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata for his valuable help regarding statistical and mathematical formulations in this study. He made statistics seem simple – and what more- an interesting and intriguing field of study. I am thankful to him for his time, patience and help.

My heartfelt thanks go to my husband Dr. J. Samajder, Consultant Psychiatrist, who was my access point to the world of the psychiatrists. Without his help, it would have been very difficult – if not impossible- to get all the real data from the busy world of the psychiatrists.
I am thankful to eminent psychiatrists Dr. Malati Ghosh, Dr. Amarnath Mallick and Dr Ranadip Ranjan Ghosh Roy, office bearers of Bengal Chapter of Indian Psychiatric Society for introducing me to many members of the psychiatric fraternity.

I take this opportunity to thank each and every psychiatrist who took some time off their busy schedule to respond to the questionnaire and sometimes to make valuable suggestions that has enriched the study and made me see the whole thing from their viewpoint.

It is always difficult for a working woman with two kids to pursue a research work that needs so much of hard work, time, energy and attention. It could not have been possible for me without the generous support offered by my loving mother and caring and understanding husband. I am also grateful to my housekeeper Smt. Kalpana Roy and driver Shri Ram Ashis Singh whose dedicated and efficient service made it possible for me to concentrate solely on this thesis for the last few months.

Last but not the least, I am deeply indebted to my darling daughters Disha Samajder and Dyuti Jhilik for their love, inspiration-and above all – their affectionate tolerance without which I could not possibly embarked upon this grave and painstaking endeavor.

_Dhakuria, Kolkata. Susmita Chakraborty. 12.12.07_