Preface

The idea of making an in depth study into the social and psychological problems of high-rise dwellers cropped up in my mind after going through the umpteen hoardings, promotional advertisements in the newspapers and looking around the multi-storied complexes coming up in quick frequency in and around the city of Kolkata where I live. The very looks, magnificence and grandeur of the high-rise buildings attracted me tremendously and I was inclined to wonder how lucky must have been their residents who could view the world from the top and secure position without having to bother about the crowded streets, din and bustle and water logging which the non-high-rise dwellers had to face. My idea was, however, changed somewhat after I came across some of my friends, relatives and persons living in such complexes who ventilated some problems associated with living there and I realized that things were not all that rosy after all. Then I thought that in order to analyze the situation comprehensively a comparative study might be taken up in a scientific manner taking into account the perceptions of the high-rise dwellers and the non-high-rise dwellers. I selected Kolkata as my study area since I am a local resident and it would be easier to contact and interact with the respondents and all others from whom I would be getting help and advice in my pursuit.

In course of my study varied perceptions on different counts were received from the high-rise and non-high-rise dwellers whom I contacted and relative advantages and disadvantages of the residents were obtained which I have discussed in the subsequent chapters.
I acknowledge with a profound sense of gratitude and humility the immense help and guidance kindly rendered by my supervisor Professor Dr. S. K. Dasgupta but for whom my study could not have been completed.

My heartfelt thanks go to my teachers, especially Dr. A. K. Chatterjee who helped me for adjudging the face validity of the Housing Environment Perception Scale, Part-1 used in the study.

I acknowledge and appreciate the support provided by my ex-colleagues and students of Muarlidhar Girls College and Asutosh College, Kolkata, some of my friends and relatives, and Dr. Mitra Bhattacharya for their kind assistance in introducing me to the inmates of the high-rise and non-high-rise buildings.

Considerable thanks are due to the selected high-rise and non-high-rise dwellers who spent their precious moments to provide data for the present pursuit.

I recall with gratitude the constant support, inspiration and advice given to me by my parents and my father-in-law in the course of my work.

A special note of appreciation goes to my husband Indranil Chatterjee whom I found to be always by my side with help, assistance and encouragement whenever I needed them.

Finally, I would like to submit that aspirations and attainments seldom synchronize, we have to accept our constraints and try to make sincerest efforts to obtain the best out of the available conditions and that is what I have tried to accomplish in my 'most humble way.'
I take the privilege of presenting this dissertation work to the respected examiners for their valued comments and advice for future improvement in this regard.

Place: Department of Applied Psychology,
University of Calcutta.

Dated: 27.10.2008

Signature of the Candidate
(Mahuya Sen)