

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to my supervisor, Professor S.P.Sinha. She has been the best teacher and role model I could hope for and someone who I felt always cared about my development as an academic. I will look back on my time as her student with great fondness and appreciation for many years to come. I am extremely grateful for the time and advice she has given me in relation to this thesis and also in relation to the broader dimensions of my academic life. This thesis is as much a testament to her stamina as it is to mine.

I am thankful to my teachers, Mrs. S. Agarwal and Mrs. I Das for their love and support through all the emotional ups and downs of the Ph.D. has been unflagging.

I am grateful to all the college students from Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar University and Dayalbagh Educational Institute who participated in the survey process. In the process of collecting the data I was very fortunate to receive the support from staff teachers of Dayalbagh Educational Institute.

I would also like to extend many thanks to the librarian and other library staff for providing the opportunity to review the related literature. Similarly, I thank to all the teachers of various colleges who permitted me to collect data under his/her supervision during their class time.