Acknowledgement

Let me express my deepest sentiments of gratitude to Prof. (Dr) C. B. Asha, who was the inspiration and supervisor to this thesis. She was a constant source of encouragement through all the stages of my work. Her expert guidance and timely help allowed me to complete this work.

I express my gratitude to Dr. Vedagiri Ganesh who was in the examination panel of my preliminary viva. Let me thank him for his invaluable suggestions.

Sincere thanks are due to, Dr. T. Sasidharan, the head of the department of Psychology, and Prof. (Dr) Anitha Ravindran former head of the department of Psychology, University of Calicut, for their support and co-operation through the period that I have been a student. Let me also acknowledge Prof. John Baby, and Dr. C. Jayan the former heads of the department of Psychology, for their timely help and assistance at different phases of my doctoral study. I also place my thanks on record to Dr Shari and all the other faculty members. I thank all the non teaching staff especially Purushothaman, for his well-timed help in the lab, and Gokul Raj librarian of the department of Psychology.

Let me acknowledge my deepest gratitude to all the principals, teachers, other staffs and the students of all the schools for their co-operation in making this study a possible one. I am indebted to all the parents
and children who were part of this study. I express my sincere thanks to each one of them.

I remember with great appreciation, Mr Abdul Salam and Mr Abdul Rasheed, the trustees of Rajah hospital, Chavakkad for their co-operation in my study. I also thank, Pradeep Kumar, the manager of Rajah hospital and Thahira, Rasheena, Rukhiya, Chandrika and Sister Sindhu, the staff members for their encouragement. Let me acknowledge my gratitude to the supervisors of Thanal day care centre at Rajah hospital.

I take this opportunity to thank all the professionals who have contributed to my study. Clinical Psychologists (especially Aneeta Mary Nicholas, Medical Trust, Kochi and Dr Sam Manikkam,), Psychiatrists (Dr N. Pfizer, Rajah hospital, Chavakkad), Psychologists (Sreeji,K.B) and Physiotherapist (Dr Roshna Aleef, Rajah Hospital, Chavakkad) for their valuable discussions during the study. Many thanks are also due to Dr. Manikandan for his expertise in statistical computing of the data.

My friends had been an immense source of support during each stage of my study. Let me express my gratitude to each one of them. Many thanks are due to my junior friends, Sumith and Sreeji who were with their ever-ready approach to help me at any time whether it was in the hostel or in the department. I acknowledge their support and companionship at this stage. Let me thank my senior friends, Dr. Sareena and Sr. (Dr). Rose Jose, for their valuable
suggestions, encouragement and company, during my study. I also take this opportunity to thank Suraj, for being there for me in this long journey. It would be ungrateful, not to think of Simon Mulangan, for his motivations at various stages of my student life. I also remember Dr. Bindu, Vinu, Ashraf, Sajan, Krishnan, Neeta, Teena, Sreeja, Sudhesh, Maya, Sreedevi, Sunil, and all the other friends who have helped me in my work. I remember all my dear friends who have been with me right from the very beginning of my life in Calicut University. Many thanks are due to Sandya, Ashna, Divya, Reena, Shameem, Priya, Rajani, Leema, Vinod, Bhagyalekshmi, Viswanathan and Benny. I acknowledge each one of them with sincere gratitude and pleasure at this stage of my study.

My sincere thanks go to Ajith Kumar C.T., my senior and friend for his invaluable suggestions, and encouragement throughout this long journey. Without his support, this dissertation wouldn’t have been a successful one. His timely advice and expertise made a big difference to this thesis. Let me thank him profusely.

I also thank my neighbours Latha Unni, Unni and Chandrika Venugopal for their valuable help. Antony, Sneha, Shekhar and Jamsheed were also a great help to me during my work. Let me thank all of them.

Many thanks are due to Mr. O.P. Joseph, Dr. Rathi, Mr. Sony and Mrs. Soorya and all those who have provided all the
technical help in the presentation of this thesis. I thank Mustafa of Chat box, Chenakkal and Balu and Vinesh of Bina Photostat & DTP centre, for their neat DTP and printing and binding work of this thesis.

I thank all my relatives who have been a constant source of support

My sincere thanks are also due to my parents and sisters, Anju and Manju, who have been a constant source of encouragement and support throughout.

As I submit my doctoral thesis, I bow before the Almighty God in submission.

Shabana M. S.