Acknowledgement

This thesis would not have seen the light and publications so fast and so well without the Divine Blessings of the Supreme Father. With eternal gratitude, most humbly, respectfully and in all submissiveness, I offer my silent and sincere obeisance in His Lotus Feet. It is due to His unbounded grace and blessings during the entire course of this work. I also pray for His grace forever.

At the outset, I would like to record my utmost gratitude to Prof. Laxmi Rani Kulshreshtha and Prof. V. Upadhyay, my able Supervisors, for advising and guiding me from the very early stage of this research. Their great insight, perfectionism often inspired me to work harder than before. Their wide knowledge and logical way of thinking have been of great value for me. Their ever understanding, encouraging and personal guidance have provided a good basis for the present thesis. Their involvement and meticulous ideas have triggered and nourished my intellectual maturity that I will benefit from, for a long time to come. I gracefully acknowledge their warm encouragement, guidance and patience in reading the numerous versions of my chapters and papers. I have learnt a lot from them on general research and specific subjects related to this thesis. They always encouraged me, prevented me from getting stuck during the research and helped me in every possible way. I really owe them a lot for their continuous efforts.

I gratefully acknowledge Dr. Kamal Srivastava, Department of Mathematics, Prof. Sanjay Srivastava, Faculty of Engineering, DEI, for motivating me to pursue a research career and for their kind deliberation. Their involvement, triggering and nourishing my intellectual maturity, will benefit me for a long time to come.
I am especially indebted to Prof. P.K. Kalra, Director, DEI, for his kind help and encouragement during my research work.

I would like to express my gratitude to Prof. S. P. Sinha, Prof. Ira Das, Department of Psychology, Prof. Agam Tyagi, Department of Maths for their kind encouragement and cooperation during this work.

I tend my humble thanks to Prof. S. Swami, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, who gave me the opportunity to work with complete freedom in the department and gave me untiring help and support during my difficult moments.

I am extremely grateful to Mr. P.N. Mujjoo for providing me great help and enabled me to remain focused and concentrated in the academics. Also, I like to thank the participants in my survey, who have willingly shared their precious time during the process of interviewing.

How can I forget at this juncture my elders for giving me the encouragement, moral support and will to pursue what I believed. My father, Mr. I. K Gupta, my mother, Mrs. Darshan, My father-in law, Dr. D. K Diwan, who supported and guided me throughout entire process, both by keeping me harmonious and helping me putting pieces together. I am thankful to my husband Advocate Deepak Diwan for his continuous support and guidance at every moment. I am also thankful to my daughters Mahima and Dhun who gave me time of their share to concentrate on academics. I will be grateful forever for their love.

Last but not the least I thank all others who directly or indirectly helped me in the realization of this thesis. At the same time I express my apology for failing to mention their names here.

November, 2013

Vinita Arora