Acknowledgements

I feel greatly indebted to my Guru and guide Dr. K. S. Joseph, Reader in the Department of Education, for his valuable guidance, unfailing help and abundant interest in the fulfillment of this work. It is a privilege to have worked under his guidance.

I would like to acknowledge and thank several others, who have contributed in unique ways to this work.

Dr. Kothari, Dean, Faculty of Education, for being understanding and sympathetic;

Prof. Snehaben Joshi, for always smiling and encouraging me;

Dr. Goel, whose quiet demeanour and faith in the students instilled confidence in me;

Mr. Jani ("Mama"), Head, Hansa Mehta Library for his valuable support in my search for literature;

Dr. Pradhan, Dr. S. Kumar, Dr. Milind, Dr. Ashutosh, Mr. Nankani, and Mr. Shashikant Bodus for their help and co-operation;

And above all, the principals, the teachers and students, of the three schools for all the co-operation and support extended to me in collecting data for my study. Without their co-operation, this study would not have been possible.
I am indebted to Dr. Jyoti Christian (Retd.) Sr.Reader in the Faculty of Education & Psychology, Dr. Suman Karndikar (of Pune) and Yamini for their help, valuable feedback and above all, their moral support in the successful completion of my thesis.

Finally, my parents, Mom, Dad, Brothers, Sisters, my loving Husband and Children (Sweety, Silky and Suraj) for their patience and encouragement; for seeing me through in my highs and lows; for being understanding; for giving me the time and space to pursue what was really important to me. I cannot thank them enough.