ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am profoundly indebted to Dr. Pushpinder Kaur, my Research Supervisor, for her valuable guidance and inspiring encouragement for the completion of this thesis. The investigation reached its present shape only because of her erudition of my area of work which helped me develop a more critical and informed perspective throughout the research process.

I am whole-heartedly grateful to Dr. Meenakshi Sharma, Professor and Head, Department of Education and Community Services, Punjabi University, Patiala for her critical comments and useful suggestions at various stages of this work. She was immensely gracious in giving her valuable time whenever I wanted to discuss something on this Inquiry.

My sincere thanks are due to all the teachers of the Department of Education and Community Services and other scholars for their valuable suggestions from time to time and particularly during the annual seminars presented by me in the Department on various aspects of the present Investigation. All the teachers as well as staff of the Department have been of tremendous help to me in one or the other way. I am distinctively grateful to Dr. Kulwinder Singh and Dr. Jasraj Kaur who appreciated my idea of working on community participation in school education and helped me in preparing the initial drafts of the research proposal.

I express my sincere gratitude to all the personnel of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and the Department of Education, Government of Punjab including the District and Block Education Officers, Cluster and Block Resource Persons and Education Volunteers and the teachers for their valuable help, guidance and inhibited cooperation towards successful completion of the research study.

It gives me immense pleasure in acknowledging the help I received from the members of the Village Education Development Committees, the head teachers, the members of panchayats, the parent-teacher associations and other community people. It is needless to say that without their help, the Study would have been more open to criticism.
I would fail in my duty if I don’t acknowledge my deep sense of gratitude to my son Arindam and daughter Arhana for depriving them of my love and personal attention due to my pre-occupation with the present work. The patience exhibited by both these kids on the occasional neglect on my part has been phenomenal and I really appreciate their sacrifice.

I have a deep sense of gratitude to Dr. D.P. Singh, Professor and Head, Department of Social Work, Punjabi University, Patiala for his genuine concern and unending academic as well as domestic support right from the stage when the idea of this research was conceived.

Finally, I take this opportunity to thank all my family members, near and dear ones, friends and colleagues for their genuine interest and continuous support for this endeavor. I would also like to record my appreciation for Mr. Punit Bansal of Bansal Creations for his professional advice on computer typesetting and printing of this research report.

Ritu