ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

With the grace of Almighty the opportune moment has come to acknowledge with fond remembrance all the explicit and implicit helps I have received during my research tenure. I'm greatly indebted to my guide Dr. U.V. Upmanyu, Professor Department of Psychology, Panjab University, Chandigarh, for his profound knowledge, dedicated approach unflinching support and benevolent guidance imparted to me in fulfilment of this work. I could not have finished my work, if Dr. (Mrs.) Sushma Upmanyu and Dr. U.V. Upmanyu had not cooperated with my personal obligations. My personal regards for them.

I gratefully express my reverence to Dr. Sagar Sharma, professor Emeritus, Panjab University, Chandigarh and Dr. S.K. Verma, Retd. Professor Department of Psychiatry, P.G.I., Chandigarh, they have always shown lively interest in my progress at research work and have provided encouragement at different levels of my work.

I'm thankful to the Chairperson, Department of Psychology, Panjab University, Chandigarh, for his cooperation during the course of this study. I also convey my thanks to all the non-teaching staff members of my Department for their timely help provided to me at various stages of my work.

I would be failing in my duty, if I do not express my sincere thanks towards all the Principals who permitted me to collect data from their schools. I am thankful to all the participants who have willingly participated in my study and made this work possible.

Considerable gratitude is also due to my sister Adash Sharma and her family members for their pillar like support provided to me during data collection from Haryana.
I must also thank my husband, who stood by me and kept my spirit buoyed up whenever I momentarily got overwhelmed by the enormity of the task in hand and by the temporary hurdles that came in the way.

Who stood by me when the paper was blank benedictions & benedictions of my parents (father, mother and my taya jee), who remained the real bastion of support and understanding, constant source of inspiration and encouragement and accepted many inconveniences and imposition smilingly and cheerfully.

No words can however express my gratitude to my understanding and affection brother who stood by me during all the thick and thins and most important who has sacrificed his studies for the sake of mine.

Last but not least my loving thanks to little ones Siddhu and Monty, whose sweet smiles and puzzling cries boosted up my work like anything.

Seema