

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

It is indeed my great pleasure to express my gratitude towards several people who contributed to this study and I would like to acknowledge them whole-heartedly.

First and foremost, I am thankful to my guide Dr. Medha Kumthekar. I have benefited immensely from her vast expertise and guidance. Her corrections and editing was always on target and her emotional support and words of encouragement were even more valuable. Without her involvement, completion of this thesis would still be in the conceptual stages and would never have come to fruition.

My special thanks to Dr. Kalyan Banerjee, who seeded the thought of doctoral studies in my mind and provided constant encouragement and enlightening guidance in all these years. My sincere thanks to Late Dr. V. N. Rao (Director Research, K.E.M. Hospital Research Centre, Pune and Late Dr. Banoo Coyaji, Chairman, K.E.M. Hospital Research Centre, Pune who initiated me to work in the area of sexual health. Their kind guidance had always proved to be highly helpful for me. I take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to all the doctors, psychiatrists, urologists, gynecologists and dermatologists, who referred cases with psychogenic sexual dysfunction to me.

I specially thank Dr. Hemant Apte, for making available his personal library for my research. He has spent many hours in checking my drafts for

English and also provided guidance and constant moral support. I was greatly helped by many of my friends from KEM Hospital who spent their time in discussions and provided moral support in my hard times for which I thank them. I wish to thank Mrs. Aparna Ghodke who spent many hours of her time in feeding the data and performing statistical analysis on computer.

I wish to express my deep gratitude to all the respondents of this study, without whose sincere cooperation my research would not have been completed. I am also thankful to Dr. Medha Kumthekar for providing tools, which she has used in her researchers namely, the Self-Concept rating scale and Marital Adjustment Questionnaire, which were most important for the present study.

I would also like to thank the Librarian of S.N.D.T. College, Pune.

I am immeasurably indebted to my husband Anil and both sons, Vikrant and Harshal. They provided me a great amount of emotional support. I do not have words to thank them for their patience and tolerance for inconvenience they have shown in all these years.

Lastly, I cannot stop without paying gratitude to my late parents and my late father-in law, with whose blessings this research has been completed.

Mrs. Ujjwal Nene,

Pune.