ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It is a proud moment for me to submit my thesis in pursuit of fulfilling my dream of earning a Ph.D. degree. There were moments of excitement, frustration, agony, happiness, contentment and finally a sense of completion. Though mere words may sound very hollow and artificial, I must acknowledge contribution of all those who helped me complete this journey. My gratitude to all those mentioned below extends beyond these mere words.

Mere saying that, ‘I express my deep sense of gratitude’ is not enough to describe my feelings for Dr. Neelakshi Lavakare, who not only guided me throughout the research work but has also been a great source of inspiration, support and motivation for me. She was very prompt in giving her valuable feedback whenever required and was always available for consultation even in midst of her busy academic schedule. She was highly encouraging and co-operative without indulging in spoon feeding and above all at all times, she was serious about maintaining the much needed critical eye for ‘quality’.

I really appreciate her punctuality, systematic approach and her ability to guide me and at the same time to allow me to express my individuality. I would like to take this opportunity to thank and acknowledge her contribution in successful completion of my research work.

I sincerely thank all college women who responded to the questionnaires for collecting the data for my study. My special heartfelt thanks to the college students who enthusiastically participated in the counselling programme and shared their lives with me. I have learnt a great deal from them. Their sincere and serious efforts have yielded highly reliable and valid results for the study. I would like to extend my thanks to the respected authorities of all colleges who permitted me for assessment of their students and also took pains in changing their college schedule for my assessment sessions. Special thanks to Dr. Kesarkar, Principal, M.Ed. College, S.N.D.T. Women’s University, who made me available not only her students and premises for counselling programme but took keen interest in my research as well. She is an embodiment of genuine co-operation and gentleness.
I am thankful to my advisors and well wishers - Dr. Pandit, Ex. Head and Professor, P.G. Department of Psychology, S.N.D.T. Women’s University; Dr. Kaila - Head and Reader, P.G. Department of Psychology, S.N.D.T. Women’s University; Dr. Purandare – Faculty, P.G. Department of Psychology, S.N.D.T. Women’s University; Dr. Satishchandra Kumar - Reader, Department of Applied Psychology, University of Mumbai; Dr. Golvilkar – Head, Department of Psychology, S.N.D.T. Women’s College, Pune and Mr. Aagashe – Assistant Registrar, S.N.D.T. Women’s University.

I also extend my thanks to my dear friend - Ms. Lata Bhosale; concerned colleague - Ms. Chaitra Redkar; Head of Department of Psychology - Mrs Leena Mehta; Ex Head, Department of Psychology - Mrs. Shroff and my mentor – Dr. Marulkar, Head and Professor, P.G. Department of Sociology, S.N.D.T. Women’s University, who supported me at every stepping stone of my research. Throughout this journey, they have been the persons from whom I have drawn my strength. I am thankful to them for their support and encouragement during difficult and frustrating times.

I am grateful to all faculty members of Tata Institute of Social Sciences who offered me tremendous help for data entry and analysis. Among those who deserve special mention are- Dr. P.M. Salvi for his expert advice and guidance, Dr. D.P. Singh for selection of appropriate statistical tests, Dr. V. Sivkumar for statistical assistance, Mr. Sudhir Kale for his valuable time and efforts in data entry and graphs and Mr. V.K. Shinde for his contribution to give final presentable look to the entire manuscript. I am highly indebted to all of them.

I owe tremendous thanks to Dr. Prabhu, Ex-Director of ICSSR, Western Regional Centre and Dr. Soan, Dy. Director, ICSSR, Delhi, for awarding me ‘Young Doctorate Fellowship’ for my Ph.D. work, which provided me a great assistance during the most crucial period in my research work. This assistance is greatly acknowledged.

I would also like to express my deep sense of gratitude and indebtedness to honourable Vice chancellor of S.N.D.T. Women’s University- Dr. Chandra Krishnamurti, Registrar- Dr. Madhu Madan, Director of BCUD- Dr. Kumudwalli, as
well as all members of Management Council body of S.N.D.T. Women’s University who expressed confidence in my ability and sanctioned leave for my doctoral work. I am deeply beholden to them for the support extended by them.

Mrs Bharati Kelkar deserves rich compliments in this regard as she has spent many hours in reading through the typescript. Her constructive suggestions and kind of indulgence has contributed in no small measure to improve the work qualitatively. A special bond, which I have developed for her serves as a treasure of thoughts.

Finally, this acknowledgement wouldn’t be complete without my family members and parents. My husband and mother-in-law motivated and inspired me during the period of this work. Especially, my mother-in-law who stood behind me like a pillar of strength throughout this venture and relieved me from domestic responsibilities. I owe a debt of gratitude to her that I can never repay. I am also eternally grateful to my mother and father who strengthened me at every stage of this endeavour, inculcating vigour and perseverance in me and expecting nothing in return.

Last but not the least, I am deeply grateful to my son, Anay, whose help is invaluable. He is my little in-house expert in solving any computer related problems. He enthusiastically and painstakingly assisted me in typing the manuscript during its various stages. His immense contribution to my work cannot be put in words.

I am also thankful to all those who have helped me at various stages of my research but are not listed here. Their contribution was no less important for the successful completion of my research work.

ANJALI N. JOSHI