Acknowledgements

The present thesis is the culmination of years long academic pursuit in which some academicians and others have extended their cooperation and lent a helping hand without which this thesis would not have seen the light of the day. I feel indebted to all of them for their kind help and cooperation. This acknowledgement is an expression of my heartfelt gratitude and thankfulness to them.

First of all I feel duty bound to express my gratitude to Prof. Chitra Purohit, President, Banasthali Vidyapith and Prof. Aditya Shastri, Vice-Chancellor, Banasthali Vidyapith for giving me an opportunity to pursue this research work and providing the necessary help.

I also feel greatly indebted to my supervisor Dr. Indu Bansal, Professor and Dean, Faculty of Home Science, Banasthali Vidyapith, Rajasthan, as she has been pivotal in the development and completion of this thesis. Her input has been crucial in the culmination of the project into this final thesis. I thank her for giving me time and providing assistance throughout this project.

My deep appreciation is extended to Prof. Praveen Dhyani, Executive Director, Banasthali Vidyapith, Jaipur Campus for all the support and providing necessary facilities to carry out research work without any hurdle throughout the period.

I also thank Sh. H.L. Mittal, Dy. Registrar, Banasthali Vidyapith and his entire office team in quick processing and support. I would also like to thank Prof. G.N.Purohit, Dean AIM & ACT, Banasthali Vidyapith for his support and encouragement throughout my project work.

I also owe heartfelt thanks to the principals and teachers of all the schools selected for data collection as well as to all the respondents (single parents and their children) without whose co-operation the successful completion of this project was not possible. I am also grateful to Gp. Cpt. Chandra Shekher, Ms. Indrajeet Kaur, Dr. Archana Purohit, Ms. Nirupama Purohit, Ms. Santosh Sharma, Ms. Gunjan
Mathur, Ms. Taruni, Ms. Sarita Jain, Ms. Anita Dhaka, Ms. Suman Saxena who helped me in collecting the data and extended support at every step.

My deep appreciation for Mr. Anil Mathur, for providing me his expert help in statistical analysis and computation of results and Dr. Kiran Gaur for her valuable guidance in statistical analysis of the project. I also take this opportunity to thanks Titu Thesis Centre for flawless technical and printing support.

Special thanks are offered to my friends and colleagues Dr. Pratishtha Mathur, Dr. Manisha, Ms. Sudha Morwal, Dr. Sunita Chaudhary, Ms. Rekha Jain who believed in my strengths and capabilities and prodded me gently in the times of doubt. and many thanks to Dr. Neeti Mahajan for her time to time assistance in the writing of the thesis.

Last but not the least I would like to show my deepest gratitude to my parents, Prof. S.G.Saxena and Prof. Radha Rani Saxena, my parent-in-laws, Sh. R.K.Bhatnagar and Smt. Sheela Bhatnagar and my brother, Mr. Nirbhay Gopal and sister-in-law Dr. Arpita Gopal for making me believe in my potentialities and for being a source of inspiration and support from beginning to end. A special thank is extended to my children, Aayush Bhatnagar and Osheen Bhatnagar for their unconditional love and support and tolerating inconvenience due to my research work.

Above all, I bow before the Almighty for the wisdom and strength bestowed upon me, without which the study would have been impossible.

Thank you every one!!!

Namita Bhatnagar