ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

With all humility and reverence, I thank the Almighty for bestowing his blessings and giving me profound strength to take my efforts to the logical end.

It gives me immense pleasure to convey my sincere gratitude to Dr. Darshana Sharma, Professor of Education, Directorate of Distance Education, University of Jammu, Jammu for her affectionate disposition, excellent spirit, expert guidance, critical evaluation, constant encouragement and providing an impetus at every step of this piece of research work. Her professional interest in my work, with exacting standard of research has been of great value to me both in training as a researcher and in shaping out this thesis.

I also owe my gratitude to Prof. Renu Nanda, Head, Post-Graduate Department of Education, University of Jammu, Jammu, for encouragement and providing necessary facilities in completing this work.

I am also thankful to Prof. Mubarak Singh and Prof. Rajeev Rattan for their critical comments which helped me in framing the thesis.

I am obliged to the principals and teachers of various institutions who co-operated with me in the collection of data for the present study.

My thanks are also to the library staff of P.G. Department of Education and Directorate of Distance Education for their guidance regarding the use of library.

I also take this opportunity to convey my thanks to my husband Mr. Chander Shekhar who extended whole hearted support to me for carrying over and completing this research work.

The work presented in this thesis would not have been possible without my close association with many people who were always there when I needed them the most. I take this opportunity to acknowledge them for their continued support and encouragement.
Last but not the least, I would also like to thank M/s Mahavir Computers (Mr. Anil Sawhney) 316-A, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, for setting and printing the thesis with meticulous care.

Jyoti Bhagat