While submitting this study for critical appreciation of the masters and experts I cannot but remember the guides, teachers, colleagues, friends and friends of friends who have made it possible for me to tackle this intricate problem.

It was Dr. N.K. Upasani, who in his inimitable style suggested the topic to me. But for his acummen and initial guidelines it would not have been possible for me to find proper direction. To thank him and express my gratitude would only be a formality.

I also place on record my sincere appreciation of the Principal of my college and also the managing committee of Adarsh Shikshan Mandal for their open-hearted and enthusiastic support by allowing me to avail of the opportunity of enjoying the ICSSR fellowship offered by the Indian Institute of Education, Pune.

The Indian Institute of Education and its able and eminent teachers allowed me the privilege of pursuing my studies under them. My association with the Institute will be an unforgettable period of my life. Also it was here that I could get the benefit of the experience and expertise of Dr. Smt. Chitra Naik, Dr. S.B. Gogate, Dr. Mrs. T.C. Daswani, late Dr. Vijaya Chitnis and Dr. Sheela Bhan.
I am also obliged to the heads and staff of the schools where the subject-matter of my study was and where I could gather voluminous information. The parents of the students also were not lacking in cooperating with me and they encouraged with their wards also.

The free access to the library of State Institute of Education was of great advantage to me and I sincerely thank the librarian of the Institute.

I also place great reliance on Mrs. Medha Pradhan for efficient and neat tabulation of the data and on Mr. Mangesh Kulkarni for the statistical computations.

The uncomplaining and painstaking typing work of Shri V.P. Katikar and Shri D.A. Watarkar has also been a contribution of great value for this study.

And the last and the most important debt I have to acknowledge is that of my guide, friend and philosopher, Dr. Savitri Shahani. It was she who was, all through my study, critically appraising my work and was steering me towards my goal through all trials and tribulations.


Shashikala S. Deshpande.