ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Research work is conducted always with the help of a number of collaborations and assistances. I had also to seek help and assistance from a number of individuals.

First of all, I must extend my thanks to Dr S. Bannerjee, ex-Register, and Dr. B. Chowdhury, present-Register, University of Calcutta, along with Father P. C. Mathew, S.J., Ex-Principal of St. Xavier's College, Kolkata, for making all the necessary arrangements to award me a U.G.C. Teacher- Fellowship for undergoing the final phase of this research.

Father Dr. Felix Raj., S.J., the present Principal of St. Xavier's College, Kolkata inspired me constantly all along the work. I have been encouraged and been provided the support from all the staff members of my college, particularly from Professor Swati Sarkar, the present Dean, Department of Education, St. Xavier's College, Kolkata. I am grateful to all of them.

Dr. Mandira Mukherjee, senior faculty, Department of Education, St. Xavier's College, Kolkata rendered her co-operation to me in every respect, as my elder sister. I express my deep gratitude to her.

Mention should also be made of the authorities who helped by allowing me to consult the books and journals from various libraries. In particular, I am grateful to the librarian of National Library, Kolkata; librarian of St. Xavier's College, Kolkata; librarian of Central Library, University of Calcutta; librarian of the departmental library, Alipore Campus of the University of Calcutta, and also to the librarian of Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata.

Dr. Debdulal Dutta Roy of the Psychology Research Unit, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata rendered his technical advice and also provided me the technical facilities for statistical analysis of data. I will remain ever grateful to him.

My thanks are due to the authorities of the schools from which the data of the study were collected. I am thankful to the students of those schools who agreed to be the subjects of my study. My special thank also goes to the faculty members of those schools who provided their valuable opinion towards the
appropriateness of the tools used and also provided the support and cooperation in various other ways.

Special thanks also go to the teacher-in-charge, Chandannagore B.Ed. College, Hooghly, whose valuable opinions were sought for improving the tools constructed and standardized as a part of the thesis.

My special gratitude goes to the retired Principal of David Hare Training College, Kolkata. He is my respected teacher who enlightened me in various basic aspects of science education and pedagogy. These inspired me a lot in conducting the research in the referred area.

I express my special gratitude also to Revered Dr. Chakroborty, retired Professor and Dean of Education, Department of Education, University of Calcutta, for his valuable advice in all aspects of the work, which enriched the quality of the present research. It is my opportunity to be provided the advice from such an eminent person in the field of education.

I am also to express my gratitude to all the faculty members and research scholars of the Department of Education, University of Calcutta, where I have conducted the research study. I acknowledge their friendly interaction with me and effective guidance provided whenever necessary. My gratitude also goes to the members of the Ph.D. Committee, Department of Education, University of Calcutta for their effective suggestions for qualitative improvement of the work.

Finally, I extend my sincere gratitude and heartfelt respect and regard to the Head of the Department of Education, University of Calcutta, for his constructive criticism, and constant encouragement all along the work; in spite of his extremely busy schedule. He always encouraged me to think divergently in my own way. The dissertation sees the light of the day only due to him. If this thesis is judged to be acceptable, then a major credit must go to him. In fact, I feel fortunate enough to get him as a friend, philosopher, and elder brother.

I am also particularly thankful to Dr. Chatterjee who was beside me for many times in several critical periods during the work.
It is indeed the blessings of my parents also, which lead to successful completion of the work, particularly of my mother. Her constant inspiration sustained my motivation and interest throughout the work. She spent a number of sleepless nights with me from the very beginning till the end.

I also feel great pleasure in expressing my heartfelt thanks to all my family members—my brother Pallab, sister-in-law Srabani, my beloved son 'Hampu,' and nieces 'Kaka,' childlike 'Rekha' and 'Rakhu'; for their cooperation and support.

It is beyond my capacity to express my gratitude in terms of any language to my wife 'Javanti'. Without her all kinds of supports, the work would not get completed. The hardship which she bore during my study is unforgettable to me, indeed.

RAJIB MUKHOPADHYAY