ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

A research work is essentially a team work. It requires the co-operation of several people, to take shape. This is an opportunity for me to acknowledge all of them who supported me directly and indirectly, in this journey to reach the goal.

I owe my heartiest gratitude to my supervisor, Prof. Mallika Banerjee, who has been my 'guide' in all respect. I am thankful to her, from the bottom of my heart, for constantly motivating me and providing relentless support throughout the process.

I convey my respectful gratitude to Mrs. Rajyasree Bhattacharya, lecturer of Bengal Music College for her valuable suggestions. I thank the librarian of Bengal Music College and also the rest of its staff for their co-operation and suggestions.

I am thankful to all the teachers and staff of Pradip: Center for Autism Management, for their support and extensive cooperation.

I also thank the teachers of Riddhi and Nobel Mission for extending their cooperation to fulfill this attempt.

My attempt will remain incomplete without thanking the children with autism for their priceless contribution. I thank them from the core of my heart for their innocent smiles and unconditional love which had been a source of inspiration. The faith that their parents had on me also gave me the strength to shoulder this responsibility.

I am thankful to all my teachers of the Department of Psychology of Calcutta University for their valuable support.

I am grateful to my junior Amrita and friend Suvosree for their active support in the work.
I thank my boss Mrs. Sunila Dingankar and all the other staff members of The counselling department Vasant Vihar High School (Thane) for their understanding and encouragement in my endeavour.

I express my gratefulness towards the understanding provided by the Goenka Associates Education Trust in completion of the study.

I thank from the bottom my heart, my soul mate and husband Mr. Punyabrota Dasgupta who not only actively helped me with my work in all stages but also gave me deep knowledge of the Indian ragas in theory and practice which drew me more towards the study.

The word 'thank you' is perhaps not enough for my parents Mrs. Swaha Nandi and Mr. Kalyan Kr. Nandi, who supported me in all my endeavours and helped me to pursue my goal, I thank my sister Mrs. Sujata Nandi Roy for being with me through all 'thick and thin'.

Last but not the least I also thank my mother-in-law Mrs. Ketaki Dasgupta whose co-operation gave me the enthusiasm to bring this study to completion.

Swagata Nandi

Department of Psychology
University of Calcutta
India
Date: 06.02.10