I express my sincere thanks and gratitude to Dr. Paromita Ghosh, Reader, Department of Home Science, Calcutta University for showing me the way at every step of this research work. Her learning, untiring zeal, dedication and patience were sources of inspiration for me. She was always there to solve the academic and practical problems faced by me during the course of this research.

My sincere thanks for the patience with which the draft of my thesis was meticulously read by Prof. Nrisinha Kumar Bhattacharya formerly of the Department of Applied Psychology, Calcutta University and Prof. Pranab Kumar Chakrabarti formerly of the Department of Education, Calcutta University. They have provided me with valuable suggestions for improving my work which I have tried to fulfill to the best of my abilities. Their practical suggestions have truly helped me enrich my work.

I acknowledge my debt to Dr. Debasis Ray, Indian Statistical Institute (Kolkata) for helping me out with the computerized statistical analysis of the data. His suggestions regarding the use of definite software for definite purposes truly provided me with the opportunities to derive the desired results.

My sincere gratitude to Dr. Dhruba Gupta, Assistant Professor, Bose Institute (Kolkata) who very kindly agreed to help me out in many ways inspite of his busy schedule. I acknowledge his help in procuring a map of Kolkata city included in my thesis.
I thank all my friends and well-wishers who have helped me with their valuable suggestions and encouraged me in progressing with my work.

My special thanks to the children, adolescents and their family members who have expressed interest in this investigation and agreed to be a part of it. Without their help this research would not have been possible. I am also thankful to the officebearers of the various residents' association, housing societies and complexes, local residents, teachers of music and dance classes and school teachers for helping me identifying the children and adolescents from whom data could be collected, in securing parental permission's in respect of these subjects and also in arranging data collection sessions for me at their premises. I may be excused for not mentioning their names individually.

Last but certainly not the least my heartfelt gratitude to my parents, Dr. Samar Kumar De and Ms. Chitra Dey for showing great fortitude, appreciation and patience in my endeavour. It was for them that I have been able to complete my work without any hindrance and to give to my work the fullest of my abilities.

Date: 18.12.08

Place: Kolkata

Signature