Acknowledgements

Alhamdulilah
For Everything!
For the Good.
For the Bad.
And Everything in Between.
So, Remember me and I will Remember You, and Give Thanks
To Me and be not Ungrateful.
(Quran 2: 152)

Let me thank Allah the most beneficent and the most merciful, without His blessings this work would have been impossible.

My sincere thanks are due to my supervisor Prof. Shamim A. Ansari for his able guidance and constant encouragement. His advice, ideas, insightful suggestions, critique, moral support and patience in guiding me gave this thesis final shape. Indeed, his support and encouragement has been crucial in the completion of this work. His contribution was vital in guiding me throughout my research. I must thank him for his tireless efforts and scholarly advices that has been the pillar of my strength. Thus, in making this thesis a reality the sole credit goes to him. His moral support and masterly guidance in the years was a constant inspiration for me throughout my research that kept me motivated.

Of course, I also owe many thanks to Prof. Shakina Maqbool (Chairperson, Department of Psychology, A.M.U.) for her constant support, guidance, suggestions and for providing me the necessary facilities as the which helped me in completing thesis. She provided encouragement, fruitful advices and valuable suggestions. She remained a very kind person towards me since my graduation days. I would like to thank my teachers Dr. Asiya Aijaz, Dr. Nasheen Imtiaz, Prof. Naheed Nizami, Prof. Mehmoed S. Khan, Prof.
Akhar Hussain, Dr. Mohid Illiyas Khan, Dr. Mussadiq Jahan, Dr. Asma Parveen, Prof. Abu Sufyian Zilli, Dr. Shah Alam for their eminent guidance and intellectual support. It will be very unfair if I would not acknowledge Aligarh Muslim University for providing the intellectual environment and all necessary facilities which kept me motivated and zealous high in completing the first step of my dream that is Ph.D.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude and special thanks to those people who are like ‘Angels’ for me, my well-wishers and my benefactors. I believe that Allah always send ‘Angels’ for people. So, I met an angel, with whom I shared and discussed my problems, sorrows and happiness. During thesis writing there were many ups and downs that make me hopeless but his unconditional support and unending gentle encouragement throughout this process boosted-up my confidence and made me courageous. Thanks for his words to cheer me up, making me smile and not to bother. These words directly or indirectly contributed to the successful completion of this research. His affection and care motivated me to work harder on my thesis. He has been a great source of knowledge, inspiration, vigour and verve for me. He gave me the necessary pep-talks whenever I started doubting myself. He always listened me with quiet patience and then given me guidance and effective advices as well as good suggestions. His wit has kept me smiling and given me a different view of the world that has helped keep things in perspective.

I would like to thank Prof. Radhey Shyam (Department of Psychology, M. D. University, Rohtak) and Dr. Rajesh Kumar (Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, P. G. Government College, Chandigarh), Dr. S. Jabir Raza, Dr. M. K. Zaman (Associate Professors, C.A.S in History, A.M.U.) for their encouragement, silent support, and necessary guidance during my research work. As a special gesture of appreciation I would like to
thank to my school teacher Dr. Kamlesh Singh. She treated me like her real daughter. Her good wishes, maternal love and affection, care, encouragement, guidance and support always kept me motivated. I also thank to all my colleagues and well wishers for their encouragement and moral support.

Finally, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my parents. Their cooperation was indescribable value, during the process of thesis work. Their devotion, unconditional love, support, sense of humour, patience, optimism and advice were more valuable than you could ever imagine. I thank my parents, Mr. Shahnawaz and Mrs. Shahnaz for their faith in me and allowing me to be as ambitious as I wanted. Both have always expressed how proud they are of me and how much they love me. I too am proud of them and love them very much. I am grateful for them both and for the ‘smart genes’ they passed on to me. Through their love, patience, support and unwavering belief in me, I’ve been able to complete this long journey. Thus, there are no words that can express my feelings, gratitude and appreciation for all they have done and been for me. I thank them for shaping and informing my life’s path so far and for always responding with ‘of course, you can!’ to every hair-brained scheme I devised.

I owe thanks to my elder sister Fazeela Shah, she is not only a sister but she is a friend of mine. She has also given me so many happy and beautiful memories throughout this expedition of research work. Her unconditional love, care and sense of humour for me was incalculable. We have laughed and cried, travelled and played, built and settled, and planned and discussed our lives like a true friends. I could not have completed this journey without her by my side.

Thanks to my friendly elder sister Nabeela Shah. She listened to all my pangs with kindness and suggests me good advices like a physician and made
all the things light and exultant. My younger brother Abubakr Shah was always there with me not only during my Ph.D but they always stood with me at every moment of my life. Their unconditional love and support has motivated me to work harder on my thesis. My family is solely responsible for what I am and what I have achieved today. I thank Allah to have blessed my life with these sweet and loving people as my parents, sisters and brother.

My uncle Muhammad Nasir (Assistant Controller, A.M.U.) for his endless moral support, encouragement and advices were greatly appreciated.

Further, I would like to express my gratitude to the University Grants Commission and Ministry of Affairs for providing financial support for this research under Maulana Azad National Fellowship Scheme.

My Thanks are due to the staff members of Maulana Azad Library (A.M.U.) and Seminar Library, Department of Psychology (A.M.U.) and for their support and cooperation in providing valuable books and reference material for thesis.

I also would like to express my appreciation to the office staff Department of Psychology (A.M.U) Gaus bhai, Farzana aapa, Shabbir, Shariq bhai, Kafeel bhai, Aqeeq bhai, Majaz bhai, Taj bhai, Aftab bhai, Sabiha aapa (Department of Psychology AMU) for their support and cooperation.

Fatima Shahnawaz