Acknowledgements

Academic competition results into academic stress which is a serious public health problem affecting a large number of children in India. Reported evidence indicates that more than six children commit suicide in India every day because of academic failure (National Crime Records Bureau, 2008). Undoubtedly this reported figure underestimates the present situation rather it is tip of the iceberg, which gives clear idea about the seriousness of the problem in India. In fact, this reported data as well as personal experience of academic competition and pressure insisted the researchers to think of academic stress issue for in-depth probing.

Further, in 2009 when I visited the School of Public Health, Faculty of Health, Queensland University of Technology (QUT), Brisbane, Australia as Visiting Faculty my desire for the same study became much intense after interaction with Prof. Michael Dunne, Social Epidemiologist, School of Public Health, QUT and his bright scholar Jiandong Sun. My. personal discussion with Prof. Michael Dunne and Jiandong Sun about academic stress related issues with special reference to India and China was very much enlightening. To have better understanding of the complex issue, I finally decided to carry out a systematic study on academic stress in India for my D.Sc. since there is not much information on this issue. Therefore, the credit for my initiative for this research goes to Prof. Michael Dunne and Jiandong Sun. I am especially grateful to Jiandong Sun not only for his inspiration, but also for his overall support in completing the work more systematically especially with respect to data analysis.

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