ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am highly obliged to Allah the most beneficent and the most merciful, without His blessings nothing would have been possible. I feel my deep gratitude to beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, without whose teachings and sayings I would have gone astray.

I am thankful to the founder of Aligarh Muslim University, Late Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, for building such a magnificent institution. May Allah grant him highest place in Jannah.

I would like to acknowledge a debt of gratitude to my supervisor Professor Musaddiq Jahan for her patience and support. Allah has gifted her with extraordinary skills in statistics and a loving personality. She has been pivotal in my development as a researcher. Thank you so much for your wisdom and your ability to bring out the best in me. Your motivating words and moral lessons will keep me going throughout my life.

I am thankful to Professor Shamim Ansari, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, AMU, for his time to time concern in my research work.

I express my deep gratitude to Professor Hafiz Ilyas, Chairman Dept. of Psychology, AMU for his constant support, inspiring words and for providing me the necessary facilities which helped me in completing my thesis.

I would like to thank Professor Akbar Hussain for his valuable suggestions and intellectual support.

I am also thankful to Dr. Showkat, HoD Dept. of Psychology, University of Kashmir for his encouragement and motivation.
I would also thank **Dr. Nasheed Imtiyaz** for her kind words and deep concern.

I would thank office staff, **Dept. of Psychology, Mohd. Ghous, Mohd. Sharig Ahmad, Mohd. Aqeel Ahmad, Majazul Haq, Ahmad Khan, Mohd. Tajjudin, Aftab Akhter** whose incredible generosity helped build a space for me to study without which this thesis would have been a little more difficult.

I also owe my thanks to the respondents of the present study, without their participation and cooperation, this study would have been impossible.

I would also like to thank **Dr. Syed Iftiqar, Nusrat Jan and Mr. Tufail Ahmed** who helped me in translating the tools for the study.

A very special and deepest gratitude and love for **my Parents- Mr. Farooq Ahmad Khan and Aisha**. It is their invaluable, unconditional and unwavering support and love which enabled me to complete the course and this thesis.

A very special thanks to my brother, Mr. Sajad Hussain Khan whose love, care, friendship, understanding, unparalleled motivation and belief in me kept me going through thick and thin. My whole life is indebted to you.

Thanks to **my sisters Bilqees and Suraya** for playing elderly role despite being younger. You always instigated a vigour and zeal in me to achieve something.

I would like to thank **Aqleema Jabeen (Shonaji)** my sister in law for her kind words and deep concern.

I thank **my nephew Haider Khan** for his beautiful smiles and giggles that turned gloomy times into happier ones.

I am profoundly grateful to **my grandfather, Late Abdul Ahad Wani**. His prayers are always there with me.
Special thanks also goes to my best friend, Sajad Bhat. We’ve had an incredible friendship over the past few years; I sincerely appreciate and value the care and support you have given me.

Thanks also to my friends, Tania, Usmat, Hilal Rather, Henna Fatima, Sheikh Saleem, Altaf, Mudasir, Jasmeen, Tayyiba, Ulfat, Parveen, Rameesa, Altaf Lone, and my roommates Zeenat, Duna, Sayima, Iram, Usma and the rest of who kept me sane throughout this thesis. Thanks for your fantastic friendship.

TABASUM FAROOQ