Acknowledgements

Before thanking anyone on this earth, first of all I bow in reverence to the Almighty ‘Allah’, the most compassionate and merciful whose bounteous blessings enabled me with the potential and ability to make some contribution to the already existing ocean of knowledge in the realm of education and for making all of this possible.

I am extremely grateful to my research supervisor, Dr Mohammad Parvez, Associate Professor, Department of Education, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh for guiding me to complete my research work successfully. His excellent guidance, keen interest, critical advice, meticulous suggestions, cordial attitude from the beginning to the completion of this thesis has facilitated the outcome of the systematic presentation of this work. His high level of expectations made me work harder.

I express my profound gratitude to Professor (Mrs) Sunita Sharma, Chairperson, Department of Education, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh for providing me all the necessary facilities required for this research.

I wish to thank my learned teacher, Professor C.P.S. Chauhan, Department of Education, A.M.U., Aligarh who was kind enough in providing me valuable assistance in the statistical analysis of data.

I wish to express my deep sense of indebtedness to my teacher Professor Nabi Ahmad, Former Chairperson, Department of Education, A.M.U., Aligarh for his encouragement and moral support during the preparation of this manuscript. He taught me the importance of perseverance and patience to accomplish targets of my life.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to all my esteemed teachers especially Dr Nakhat Nasreen, Dr Gunjan Dubey and Dr Anis Jahan, Associate Professors, Department of Education, A.M.U., Aligarh for their unconditional support and help during the process of this study. I also express my special thanks to Dr. Mohammad Yusuf,
Deputy Librarian, Maulana Azad Library, A.M.U., Aligarh and other staff members of Maulana Azad Library, A.M.U., Aligarh for their support and help. Along with them, I am also thankful to staff members of libraries of NCERT, ICSSR, NUEPA, New Delhi, for the assistance they extended to me by providing the needed materials for my research.

I am also thankful to University Grants Commission (UGC), New Delhi of India for providing me the financial support as JRF and SRF.

My deepest gratitude goes to the non-teaching staff of my department, especially Mr Asif A Khan, Mr Masood Aziz and Ms Jahan Aara for their help and support.

I wish to thank my friends for their unwavering support and for putting up with me during this stressful time particularly Nayyar Jabeen, Mohd Miyan, Yasir, Manish, Nazir and Mamun who unselfishly offered their time and support whenever needed.

I place my special thanks and warm appreciations to all the respondents (principals and teachers) who willingly provided the data for my research.

Last but not the least, I am extremely thankful to my parents, Mr Sabir Ali (father) and Mrs Mubeena Begum (mother) and my brothers, Mr Mohd Nasir, Mr Mohd Javed, Abdul Khaliq, Sadiq and sisters, Mrs Shabnam and Ms Tabassum who relieved me of the family responsibilities and provided moral support which enabled me to complete the work. Words can never express this gratitude.

I am also thankful to my brother in law Mr Ahsan Khan, my two ever supportive sisters in law, Mrs Shabana and Mrs Reeba and my lovely nieces, Hiba, Zaara, Aleena, and Rehnuma and nephew Maazin for always having an ear for me, and for being so supportive.

Mohd Shakir