I would like to place on record my deep sense of gratitude to Prof. B. C. Kar, of the Department of Education, Guwahati University, under whose valuable and inspiring guidance this thesis has been prepared. Sincere thanks are specially due to the concerned schools, students and their parents of Jorhat town who ungrudgingly offered their kind co-operation in providing data of varied nature. My indebtedness to all of them is indeed very great as without the objective data and information which they had provided, meaningful analysis of the subject matter under investigation would not have been possible. I also extend my gratefulness to Shri B. C. Kakati, Head of the Department of Statistics, J.C. College, Jorhat, for the help he had rendered in the processing of the statistical data.

(M. K. Sarma)