Acknowledgements

This thesis is a culmination of a perfect working relationship with my supervisor, advisor, and mentor, Dr. M.I. Joseph, to whom I am eternally grateful. He provided unreserved support during my PhD and generously paved the way for my development as a research scientist. I really appreciate his passion and enthusiasm for continual education and growth, who graciously and unselfishly scheduled additional time for my thesis work. His dedication to academic and professional excellence motivated me all through my academic journey. Thank you very much for your guided direction and your commitment to making this thesis excellent.

I am also greatly indebted to many people who in some way or other, contributed to the progress and completion of the work contained herein. I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to Dr. H. Shylaja, HOD, Department of Psychology for continues inspiration, rise up of confidence and assurance during my academic journey. I am grateful for her wisdom and supervision, continuous encouragement, motivation and emotional support, enthusiasm, and charisma. Her constant encouragement in times of critical moments really lead to the way to work on my thesis and I could not have completed this process without the support from her.

Writing this thesis was not a lonely experience; it could have been because of cherished friends who provided enthusiasm and empathy in just the right doses. I would like to thank Dr. Justine K. James, Assistant Professor, Christ University, Bangalore and Dr. Jayanthi P. Nair, Assistant Professor, S.S.U.S, Kalady, Mrs Sony Binu, Star DTP centre, Kalady for their help with computer software and statistical analyses.
I would like to thank all the children in juvenile homes of Kerala and the inpatients at psychiatric wards at general hospital ernakulam, children from various schools, who participated in this research. Without their participation, this research would not have been possible. I owe a great deal of appreciation and gratitude to the members of the Psychiatric departments, General hospital ,Ernakulam and Social welfare department of Kerala . I also express my thanks to Clinical Psychologist, Mr. Sandeesh and Dr.Diljith for their help and support in the process of data collection.

I would like to thank my batch mates, Sandya Aravind, Sherin V George, Racheal Jyothi Alex, Shinju Kurian, Bini P.V, Harish, C.V, Soumya Uthaman, Neelima Nirmal Narayanan ,Emerson, P.V, Seena Uthaman, Dr.Rainy John, Renju Shyam, Shinoj ,A.M. and all other students in the department . All of these individuals have offered unfailing love, guidance, and faithful prayers throughout my academic career.I could not have completed this process without the support from my classmates.

It’s my pleasure to acknowledge the services of the officials in the Academic section,SSUS ,Kalady ,officials in the Library, SSUS, Kalady and NIMHANS ,Banglore for their valuable assistance in accessing various books and journal articles.

The unconditional love and encouragement provided by my family served as a secure anchor during the hard and easy times. I would like to acknowledge and thank my mother in law, father in law and brother- in law, who have been giving their constant love and support . I owe very much to my mother-in-Law for taking care of my baby when I had to do the work related to thesis. Most importantly, I would like to thank my father and my mother who is now in heaven and my elder sister Udaya , my younger sister Renjini and brother Renjith, brother-in-laws Mr. Venu Thadathilpady and Shym kumar,my nephew
Akash .D.Venu, my nieces Megha .D.Venu, Reneesha .S., Mrs. Parimala Devi, Vimal Kumar, Veena Devi, Vidhya Devi, Rethi Devi, Vibin Menon, Vismaya Devi, Retheesh Kumar, Mrs. Lissy George, and Mr Titus Poovakulam and all other relatives who have provided me with unconditional support, prayers, motivation, and love.

I have no words to acknowledge my little daughter, Angla, who has been my luck and life, she had missed me a lot due to research work, I could not give intense attention all throughout development until three years old and it really affected her language comprehension.

Lastly I have no words, but would like to acknowledge and thank my husband, Mr. Midhun Paul. Thank you for your continued love and support through the good times and the hard times. Throughout this period you have helped me keep things in perspective and for always being there. You are my shadow and life, I can think of no better person to walk this life with. Without you I would not have finished this work. Thank you for making it your life’s work to shape me and make me the person I am today. I dedicate this work to you......... papa.

Above all, I thank God, Almighty for all the blessings on me, as this is the result for your grace.......