ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation and gratitude to all the people who supported me in countless ways for successful completion of this doctoral dissertation.

First and foremost, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my supervisor, Dr. C.R. Darolia, for his unconditional support throughout my research, and beyond. This work would not have been possible without his thoughtful guidance, insightful comments, warm encouragement and motivating words. He, not only helped me in all phases of my work, but also inculcated the love and fine appreciation for research, psychology and life in me. This dissertation would not have been possible without him. I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Dr. (Mrs.) Shashi Darolia, for her support, appreciation, and words of encouragement.

I owe sincere thanks to all the faculty members of Department of Psychology, Kurukshetra University, for their direct and indirect help. A special thanks to non-teaching staff of the department for their cooperation, support, and encouragement. I would also like to thank the authorities, staff and students of various schools included in the research for their time and efforts.

To my friends, Anupama, Shalu, and Ritika, thank you, for providing me with much needed support through thick and thin, and helping me find a balance between work and play.

I would like to thank my parents who always stood by me showering unparalleled affection, limitless support and encouragement. A special thanks to my father, Dr M. L. Gupta, for those thoughtful discussions about my research that helped me in grasping the ideas and gaining more clarity. My deepest and most affectionate gratitude is towards my mother, Dr. Kiran Gupta, for having me at my best and handling my worst. She was the driving force which kept me going. She has continually reminded me throughout my
journey of research that I am capable of doing great things with a smile and enthusiasm. I dedicate my achievement to her.

Last and above all, I thank ‘The Goddess Durga’ for bestowing her blessings upon me, always. She has provided me good health, strength, determination, and love for the work which made this research a memorable journey.

(Vatsla Mohan)