ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

"Just a smile, a glimpse, can express much more than words. A gesture, a sincere gesture, is often a million times more expressive than words. Words limit the gratefulness, the gratitude."

Words often fail to express one's inner feelings of indebtedness to one's benefactors. The same difficulty haunts the investigator in penning down the deep sense of gratitude, she owes to her kind guide and a number of other persons who helped her in making this research project a completer sense.

To begin with, I am deeply obliged to my guide Dr. Nandita, Reader, Department of Education, Panjab University, Chandigarh, for taking deep and a very sincere interest in the problem. Without her able, expert and useful guidance, unfailing interest and thought provoking inspiration, the completion of the study would have been impossible.

I wish to place on record my indebtedness to the gracious cooperation, rich experience and especially valuable time of Dr. Raj K. Gupta, Head, Department of Education, Panjab University, Chandigarh. I owe my thanks to Dr. Latika Sharma, Sr. Lecturer, Department of Education, Panjab University, Chandigarh, for her valuable guidance. I offer my sincere thanks to the faculty and office staff of the Department of Education, Panjab University, Chandigarh of their sincere help and advice in the completion of this work.

I render my heartfelt thanks to visiting fellows, Prof. Lokesh Kohl, Prof. J.N. Joshi, Prof. S.K. Gakkhar Readers and Professors from Departments of Education, Public Administration, Panjabi, Sociology and Regional Research Centre for their valuable guidance in the construction of tools.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the VEDC Heads, Headmasters and Higher Administrative Authorities for providing me data for this study.

I am under obligation to all the prominent authors whose works, I have consulted and referred too.
I am sincerely thankful to Mr. Varun, Harbans Reprographic Aids, for typing the entire thesis with utmost sincerity and patience.

Last but not the least, I would like to express my indebtedness to my ever inspiring father, Mr V.N Pathak whose confidence in me and regular inspiration made me to complete this study. My thanks are also due to my affectionate mother, Mrs. Neelam Pathak, who has always been reinforcing my task by good wishes and encouraging attitude. Special thanks to my brother Mr. Sanjeev Pathak, for always keeping my spirits high and reinstating my interest in my work by ever inspiring words. My thanks will be incomplete, if I don't mention my friends, Ms. Deepak Ramotra, Ms. Geeta Bhagat and Ms. Deepika Prasad, for their love, cooperation and inspiration.

13th July, 2007

Geeta Pathak