ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

With profound reverence I thank the Almighty, Allah, who showered his divine blessings to grant me this opportunity to produce this work.

I wish to express my deep sense of gratitude to my esteemed teacher and supervisor Dr. (Mrs.) Malvinder Ahuja (Reader), Department of Education, Panjab University, Chandigarh, for her encouragement, supervision and excellent guidance during the preparation of this thesis.

Many thanks go to Professor Anand Bushan, Department of Education, Panjab University, Chandigarh, for his valuable suggestions and recommendations at all times of need.

I would like to thank Prof. Tehal Kohli, last Chairperson, Prof. Asha Gupta, Chairperson, all teachers and staff of Department of Education, Panjab University, Chandigarh, for their administrative guidance, co-operation, support and kindheartedness shown to me throughout the duration of this research Project.

I am highly thankful to the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology, Iran, and Indian Council for Cultural Relations (I.C.C.R.) for providing me a scholarship and their financial support. My special thank is also due to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, New Delhi, India, who extended their full co-operation during the period of conducting the study.

Many people contributed directly or indirectly towards the development, execution and successful completion of this Research Project. I owe my deepest regards and gratefulness to all Faculty teachers, postgraduate students and staff of Panjab University, Chandigarh, India who fully co-operated with me in the collection of data for this Research Work.

My gratefulness goes to the inspiration and wisdom of many academic thinkers and researchers for their great opinions, views and roots of wisdom. I gracefully acknowledge their thoughts and work, which became the corner stone of this investigation.
I am deeply indebted to my dear wife and daughter for providing me sufficient time for doing this work and for bearing all inconveniences faced by them during my studying.

I would also like to express my humble and deep gratitude to my father-in-law, sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, especially Dr. (Mr.) Abolfazle Alemardani, who not only encouraged me for this research work but also very magnanimously relieved me of the various household duties and responsibilities during the period of conducting the study.

It will be a great mistake if I don’t thank my beloved teachers from Primary to Higher Education level who I have learned from them. I owe my deepest regards and gratefulness to all of them, especially Mrs. Shirin Mahmodi, Teacher of Primary School, Zavarak, Alamut, and Dr. (Mrs.) Maryam Safe Naraghi, Professor of Psychology and Education Department, Allameh Tabatabai University, Tehran, Iran.

Finally, I would also like to express my deepest gratitude and heartfelt thanks to my revered parents, sisters, and brothers for giving me moral support to undertake this difficult task.

8. 5. 2003

(Esmaeil Zaraii Zavarak)