ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

With profound sense of gratitude I express my sincere and heartiest thanks to my guide Dr. (Mrs.) Asha Gupta, Department of Education, Panjab University, Chandigarh. My language cannot express the feelings of my heart, as I seek to give expression to her for her ungrudging interest, untiring help, inspiring and incisive guidance and constant encouragement. Her illuminating and timely guidance, wholehearted co-operation and constructive criticism, made it possible for me to complete this research study.

I owe my deepest regards to Prof. Dr. Harish Sharma of Department of Education, Panjab University, Chandigarh, and Dr. (Mrs.) Rajinder Kaur, International Centre for Distance Education and Open Learning, Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla for their constant encouragement, useful suggestions and all the help provided to me. Their over-willing helpfulness made it possible for me to complete this work.

My thanks are due to Prof. Dr. Tehal Kohli, Chairperson, Department of Education, Panjab University, Chandigarh for providing me the necessary facilities in the department.

I am highly thankful to the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), Government of India for providing me a scholarship under the Indo-Thailand Cultural Exchange Programme which enable me to pursue Ph.D. programme at Panjab University, Chandigarh.

I gratefully acknowledge the help of supervisors in Chiang Mai Provincial Primary Education Commission, School directors, School teachers and class 8th students in Chiang Mai, Thailand, who helped me in the data collection.

I express my appreciation to various authors, publishers, educationists and psychologists, whose studies have been consulted while working on the problem in hand besides, I owe my debt to P.C. Srimanta and those who helped me in course of this study.

I am thankful to Mr. Bharat Sharma of M/s Bit Byte Computers for giving the manuscript the present shape with utmost sincerity and patience. I gratefully acknowledge the services of National Social Science Document Centre (Indian Council of Social Science Research), New Delhi in helping me to collect related studies on Internet.

Finally, I would like to express my deepest gratitude and heartfelt thanks to my father, Mr. Boonmee Salapan, my beloved son, Khun Chitrapol Salapan, my brother and my sisters for giving me a moral support and encouraging the successful completion of my research.

Chandigarh
June, 2001

(Ms. Siriphorn Salapan)