ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

A major research project like this is never the work of anyone alone. The contributions of many different people, in their different ways, have made this possible. First of all, with all humility and sincerity, I thank God for the wisdom and perseverance that he has bestowed upon me during this research project, and indeed, throughout my life. Next to God, I would like to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to my supervisor, Dr. Ram Mehar, Assistant Professor in Education, University School of Open Learning, Panjab University, Chandigarh, for his inspiring guidance, encouraging attitude, constructive criticism, enthusiastic interest, invaluable suggestions throughout the course of this investigation.

I am also extremely indebted to Dr. Nandita, Chairperson, Department of Education, Panjab University, Chandigarh for providing necessary infrastructure and resources to accomplish my research work. I express my sincerest thanks to Principal Dr. Surinderpal Kaur Dhillon and all the staff members of Khalsa College of Education, Ranjit Avenue, Amritsar for their endless support and encouragement, without which it would have been difficult to complete this project.

I am also sincerely thankful to the Principals and Teachers of different schools for their help and co-operation in collection of the data for this study. My sincere gratitude also goes to those authors whose works I have consulted and quoted in this study. I am equally thankful to the personnel of the libraries to which I went for studying the literature relevant to my work. My whole hearted thanks are also due to all the grand and seasoned experts in the field who were like lighthouse in my journey towards the development of the tool.

I would also like to thank my colleagues Mrs. Gurmanjit Kaur Bhullar and Mrs. Parwinderjit Kaur for their insightful comments. All the feedback they gave provided valuable contributions in this thesis.

I am also grateful to my parents who offered their endless support and constant prayers. This academic journey would not have been possible without their love, patience and sacrifices. I would also like to express here my loving thanks to my sister and brother whom I always found cherishing the desire to see me rise.
Finally, but definitely not the least, I express my gratitude to my dear husband, Mr. Parnet Singh, I am very appreciative for his patience and steadfast encouragement to complete this study. My heart thanks my little angels, Sidak and Sagal for breathing with me with their silence and actions, every time and every moment.

All may not be mentioned but no one is forgotten. By these words I remember all the persons who helped me for reaching at the end of this research work.

Inspite of the best efforts, ventures of this kind are not likely to be free from human errors, some inaccuracies, ambiguities and typographic mistakes. I am responsible for any remaining error.

Date: 28 6 2013

Gagandeep Kaur

Gagandeep Kaur Sidhu