ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It has been my proud privilege to work under the guidance and supervision of Dr. (Mrs.) Sudha Banth, Senior Lecturer, Department of Psychology, Panjab University, Chandigarh. Her deep knowledge of the subject, comprehensive guidance, thought provoking discussions, constructive criticism, and expert advice and encouragement during the course of this work has been very beneficial. Without her initiation, practice and sincere interest, this study would not have been completed. My deep sense of gratitude to her cannot be adequately expressed in words.

I am thankful to professor Meena Sehgal, Chairperson, Department of Psychology, Panjab University, Chandigarh for the providing the necessary facilities.

I acknowledge my sincere thanks to professor (Mrs.) Prem Verma, Department of Psychology, Panjab University, for her valuable guidance in the statistical analysis and for encouraging me to carry on my research work.

I am also thankful to Vishakha Vohra, Research Scholar of the Department of Psychology, Panjab University, for her timely help and encouragement.

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to all the faculty members of the Department of Psychology, Tarbiat Moallem University, Tehran, Iran, specially professor (Mrs.) Parvin Kadivar, professor (Mrs.) Mehrnaz Shahraray, Dr. Valiolah Farzad, for their valuable support and understanding.

My sincere thanks to Principals, Teachers and Students, whose cooperated in data collection in Iran and India. Without their cooperation, this study could not have been carried out. I consider it my foremost duty to acknowledge my indebtedness to the Government of Islamic Republic of Iran. I am also thankful to the Government of India, Panjab University in helping me to stay in India and complete my research work.

I extend my heartiest thanks to all staff members of the Department of Psychology, Panjab University, for their encouragement and moral support during my research. It is pleasant to acknowledge my thanks to my wife Leila Honarjoo and my daughter Mobina Kordestani, whose cooperation and assistance enabled me to complete my work. They missed me for a long period and shared my burden with patience.

Dayood Kordestani

13.11.06