ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

I would like to express my profound gratitude to my guide, Dr. (Mrs). Malavika Kapur, Additional Professor, Department of Clinical Psychology for her guidance, encouragement and constructive criticism throughout the study and writing involved in the research work. Similarly I would like to express my sincere thanks to Dr. G.G. Prabhu, Professor and Head of the Department of Clinical Psychology for paving the way to carry out the research work.

Dr. Kalliaperumal, Professor and Head of the Department, Mr. Subbu Krishna, Assistant Professor and Mr. Shivaji Rao, Computer Programmer, Department of Bio-Statistics have rendered valuable assistance at different stages in computing the data and carrying out the statistical analysis. Without their contribution this work would have been impracticable.

I would like to acknowledge my thanks to the Principals/teachers and the students of Schools, without their help and co-operation this study would not have been possible: St. John's High School, Bharathi Nagar, Cathedral High School, Ashok Nagar, Women's Peace League School, Basavangudi. Holy Christ School, Indira Nagar and St. Theresa's Convent, Chamarajpet all in Bangalore.

Also, my thanks are due to my friends who have stood with me throughout the research work as a source of moral support and encouragement; especially Dr. P.S.D.V. Rao made valuable suggestions in organizing the materials and Prof. Sebastian did a wonderful piece of work in correcting the drafts.

My appreciation and thanks are due to Mr. Madan, B.A's Computers for his patient and efficient typing.

I would like to thank both my families in Madanapalli and Mahabalipuram for bearing with me and being there whenever I needed them; finally Ebenezer Barnabas and Kareen Preethi companion of my dreams are the main ingredient in all my thoughts and supported me through the challenges I faced in this research work.

Ms. TDA PUSHPARANI BARNABAS