ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Research into any field of human activity, involves interacting with a number of persons, without whose active cooperation, support and guidance it would be impossible to pursue the chosen endeavor.

First and foremost I express my deep gratitude and appreciation to my Guide, Dr. G. Mohan Kumar, Professor, Department of Psychology, Bangalore University, Bangalore, for his unstinting cooperation, encouragement and patience even in my slack periods, in guiding me through this research. His invaluable suggestions and timely guidance have been instrumental in the completion of this work.

I am appreciative of the constant support and encouragement of Dr. Achala Umapathy, Professor and Chairperson Department of Psychology, Bangalore University, Bangalore.

I am also grateful for the constant encouragement given to me by my mentors Dr. Vinod N. Murthy, Professor Emeritus, Department of Psychology, Bangalore University, Bangalore, Dr. Indira Jaiprakash, Professor, Department of Psychology, Bangalore University, Bangalore, Dr. Sudha Bhogale, Reader, Department of Psychology, Bangalore University, Bangalore, and Dr. H.S. Ashok, Lecturer, Department of Psychology, Bangalore University, Bangalore.

I especially want to thank the Principals and students of the schools where I did my data collection. Their cooperation and enthusiasm were very heartening and welcome.
A special thank to the Chief Librarians and staffs of the libraries of the following Institutes: Bangalore University, Jnana Bharathi Campus, Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore (IIMB); Indian Institute of Science (IISC), Bangalore; National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), Bangalore; Directorate of State Educational Research and Training (DSERT), Bangalore; State Educational Research Information Centre (State ERIC), Bangalore; National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT), New Delhi; Regional NCERT Head Quarters, Mysore; and Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai.

I would like to thank U.G.C. for sponsoring me for an a SDSS package training programme at Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Dronac, Mumbai.

My research work would not have been possible without the academic interest shown and assistant given by Mr. Harold F. Martin, Associate Director, International Student Services, California State University, Los Angeles, Sr. Evelyn A.C., Vice Principal of St. Agnes College, Mangalore, Mrs. Vandana Jarias, Lecturer, St. Agnes College, Mangalore and Dr. Vandana Nadig - Naic, Assistant Manager, Hindustan Levers Limited. These generous help with regard to an enormous amount of reading material and Psyclit Data have been of tremendous value.
I am indebted to Mr. Peasanth of Crystal Computers and Mr. Rajashekar, Mr. Ravindra Bhat and Mr. Geetha for their high standards of perfection and patience shown, during the course of data entry.

My colleagues and friends Mrs. Arathi Venkatesh, Dr. Gayathri Kiran, Dr. Sulatha Shenoy, Mr. M. J. Jose and Mr. Romate John, have consistently kept my morale and spirits high, never allowing it to drop, encouraging me at every stage.

My friends, Mrs. Suneetha Giridhar, Mrs. Kutpama Swamy and Mrs. Vinatha Gokhale and my cousins Mrs. Nanditha Nikam, Trishrree and Mrs. Summ S. R. have helped me in ways too innumerable to mention at every stage of my work. They made no distinction about whose work it was. A very big "Thank You" to them and all my other numerous friends and cousins who have helped me in small but meaningful ways.

And finally, my Pillar of Strength or call it Rock of Gibraltar has been my Family. My parents Mr. N. C. Ahoj and Mrs. Rukmini and my sister Mrs. Dina Peakash have cushioned the way for me all the way, making my work their first priority, on a daily basis for the past couple of years. I want to thank my brother-in-law Mr. Peakash Rao for encouraging me and my niece and nephew, Anandita and Aniruddhi for bearing with me when I could not play with them. I am deeply grateful to my family because in truth, this work would never have seen the light of day if it had not been for them.

And above all the human effort that has apparently shaped this work, I want to Thank the Divine Hand that has made such loving hands and hearts. Thank You God for Everything!