The desire for this study grew out of my experience while conducting an experimental study for my doctoral degree in Psychiatric Social Work under the Faculty of Mental Health and Neurosciences during 1979.

During the study, I was convinced that the efficacy of Social Work measures in dealing with neurotics, basically depends on the understanding of the rearing practices in the family of the patient during his childhood.

This germinated an idea in me, which I have tried to put into action in this thesis by trying to formulate an Inventory to understand the child rearing practices. Though, this is an humble attempt, I am sure, in due course, I will be able to take up an extensive study on a broader perspective of socialisation and mental health in different cultures.

In fact, the study is preliminary in nature, hence, it may have certain drawbacks. To a certain extent they have also been mentioned in the thesis. Moreover, there have also been some typing errors, which have been rectified to a great extent.

The study has been successfully completed because of the active and
continuous assistance and encouragement received from the Guide, Dr. G.S. Bidarakoppa, Professor and Head, Department of Studies in Social Work, Karnatak University. My heartiest thanks to him.

I fail in my duty if I do not thank my students, who are like my colleagues, Mr. K. Sekar, Mr. D. Muralidhar, Miss S. Chamundiswari and many others who have rendered all possible assistance in the completion of the work.

I thank Mr. S. Gowtham of the Department of Industrial Engineering, Guindy, Madras, for his personal interest in getting the data analysed through the computer at Indian Institute of Technology, Madras.

Lastly, I fail in my duty, if I do not thank Mrs. Subramanian, who has taken personal interest in typing the thesis as neatly as possible and the teachers of the respective schools considered for the study for their kind cooperation during the research.

- DR. I. A. SHARIFF -