

## **PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Adolescence is a transition phase when a lot of psychological and physical changes take place and adolescents become more curious about different things especially about sexuality. The teen years can be tough for both parent and the child. Adolescents are under stress to be liked, do well in school, get along with their family and make important life decisions. Most of these pressures are unavoidable and worrying about them is natural. Owing to cultural barrier among parent-child relationship some children cannot share their personal problems with their parents and become dependent on peer group members. Hence, sometime there is a possibility of misguidance. At the same time, during this phase a good number of them develop a tendency to take risk, which sometimes results into early pregnancy, involvement in legally deviant activities and dependence on substance. Premarital unprotected sex exposes adolescents to the risk of sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS. This apart, the deviant behaviour, over expectation of parents, family violence, gap in parent-child relationship and un-fulfillment of curious mind regarding different issues also cause psychological stress, which in turn affect the career development.

Review of latest literature across the world indicates that a number of studies have been conducted on types of risk taking behaviour among adolescents, its prevalence, onset of first sexual activity and association of risk taking behaviour with addiction. But no such holistic approach has so far been made an attempt to demonstrate the causal and contributory factors behind behaviour aberrations of late adolescents and its association with various factors with special reference to gender difference, age, socio economic level, pattern of family the adolescent belongs to and the standard of his education.

This background in mind coupled with frequent conversations with Dr. Sibnath Deb, Faculty Member, Department of Applied Psychology, University of Calcutta and Council Member of the International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN), it became quite a strong urge to investigate the issue in detail in the context of Kolkata city. So the first

and foremost acknowledgement goes to Dr. Sibnath Deb who consented to guide me in the work, with his years of experience and depth of understanding of the subject. **I am grateful to my supervisor Dr. Sibnath Deb, Faculty Member, Department of Applied Psychology, Calcutta University** for all the prized suggestions he gave me in the work, zealous effort to keep me on with the work whenever I was off track. He had continuously been an inspirer, and caring and had he not been, I could have not ventured to take up such a massive piece of work.

A significant piece of work definitely takes toll from many brains and it also requires the guidance and assistance of a number of people and organizations. This thesis is no exception. Though such people and well-wishers were innumerable and priceless, still it must be worthy to cite the names of a few without whom the work would never have been complete.

I cordially thank the Principals and the teachers of all the schools and colleges from where I had collected data for my research. In spite of their busy schedules and regular classes they cooperated in every possible way to fix dates and never failed to keep to the dates as appointed. Above all I sincerely thank all the students who gave me their valuable time and patiently went through the questionnaires, clarified their doubts if they had any and answered all the questionnaires with full responsibility. Even they spoke to me when they wanted to say something beyond the limits of the questionnaire; this one to one interaction with many of the students brought into picture a number of issues, which enriched the findings of the research.

I am indebted to all my faculties in the Department of Applied Psychology, Calcutta University for giving me their invaluable suggestions regarding my research study. They had throughout been my strong mental support. I would especially like to mention the name of Dr. A.K. Chatterjee for the immense help that I received from him in matters of statistics.

I am thankful to the Librarian of the Department of Applied Psychology, Calcutta University and other staff members for their assistance. Gratitude is extended to authors of all the books, articles and research papers that have added academic value to my work.

I am also thankful to my fellow researchers Pooja Chatterjee and Aparna Rajesh for their suggestions and extension of any type of help that I was in need of during the study.

I am extremely thankful to my family members, my in-laws who had cooperated with me in every possible way and had throughout been a source of inspiration to go ahead with the work whenever they saw me slightly down. I must also close my eyes once to say a few words of thanks to my late parents whose souls are resting in peace and ecstasy. They had always inspired me to aspire a great height in the field of education. Though they are not physically present by my side, however I have felt their presence every moment; their words acted in me as chief motivators enkindling my passion for work and I was determined that I must perform my job at the best.

Today when my work has achieved a concrete shape, I have no tall claim for this. I have done it up to the best of my ability. I fondly hope to get valuable suggestions from the evaluators of my work, which will guide me to carry on further work for the good social cause. Every care was taken to present the data systematically and interpret the same logically and meaningfully, without any prejudice. However, if there is any mistake and/or typing error the same is regretted.

*Tanusree Chakraborty.*

**Tanusree Chakraborty, M.A.**

Research Student, Department of Applied Psychology  
University College of Science and Technology, Calcutta University  
92, A.P.C. Road, Kolkata-700009, India