Acknowledgement

While a completed dissertation bears the single name of the student, the process that leads to its completion is always accomplished in combination with the dedicated work of other people.

I wish to acknowledge my appreciation to certain people:

First and foremost, I would like to thank my supervisor, Prof. Vandana Mehra, Department of Education, Panjab University, Chandigarh, for the patient guidance, encouragement and advice she has provided throughout my time as her student. I have been extremely lucky to have a supervisor who cared so much about my work, and who responded to my questions and queries so promptly. It was a great honour to work under her supervision.

I express my sincere thanks to Prof. Latika Sharma, Chairperson, Department of Education, Panjab University, Chandigarh, for her guidance and support.

It is also my duty to record thankfulness to the principals, teachers and students of Government Model Senior Secondary School, Sector 35-D, Chandigarh and Government Model Senior Secondary School, Sector 46-D, Chandigarh for providing me the opportunity to conduct my study in their schools and complete my research work smoothly.

I am immensely indebted to the leading workers in this field viz. Dr. Nellie Deutsch, Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership with specialization in Curriculum and Instruction, Research and Practical Expertise in Blended Learning, Atlantic University Masters of Arts in Transpersonal and Leadership Studies, Canada; Dr. Ramesh Sharma, Professor, Wawasan Open University, Penang, Malaysia; Mr. John Bennet, Moodle Administrator, Moscow, Russia; Ms. Mary Cooch, Moodle Community Educator, UK; Ms. Poonam Kohli, Commerce Lecturer, Army Public School, Chandimandir, Panchkula; Mrs. Kiran Chabbra, Commerce Lecturer, Government Model Senior Secondary School, Manimajra; Ms. Neelu Duggal,
Commerce Lecturer, Vivek High School, Sector 38-B, Chandigarh; and Ms. Inderpal Kaur, Commerce Lecturer, Chandigarh Baptist School, Sector 45-D, Chandigarh, for sharing their knowledge and providing me theoretical as well as technical support. Their ideals and concepts have had a remarkable influence on my entire work in this field.

I am also immensely grateful to Dr. Rupak Chakravarty, Associate Professor, Department of Library & Information Science, Panjab University, Chandigarh, for providing timely support regarding plagiarism checking. I would also like to thank Dr. Suman and Mrs. Atasi, Government College for B.Ed, Sector-20, Chandigarh, for helping me in this regard. A special vote of thanks goes to Mohindra sir also for analyzing data in SPSS.

I would also like to acknowledge the valuable inputs of Dr. Subodh Kumar (brother-in-law), Dr. Hemant Bhatt (friend), Dr. Vinod Kumar (friend), and Mr. Sukhwinder Singh (colleague) in my research work.

I am equally grateful to the non-teaching staff of the Department of Education, Panjab University, Chandigarh for providing timely help in administrative work.

Above all, this work wouldn’t have materialized without the blessings and benevolence of the Almighty, who lent me wisdom, strength and guidance in my endeavour.

Last, but not least, I would like to dedicate this thesis to my late father who kept on reminding me: “Sukhman! Your hardwork will pay off one day!”

DATE: SUKHMANI