ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It is a dream come true with the support, encouragement and blessings of my well-wishers. The present thesis is the outcome of the continuous efforts for the last few years and during this sociological study a number of people have given their valuable help and suggestions to make it more meaningful and logical. It is very difficult to set priority to name all these personalities but still I would like to name a few who have made all the difference.

The success of work largely depends on the person under whose guidance it has been completed. I must first of all express my heartfelt gratitude to my supervisor and with great pleasure I submit that the conception and culmination of this academic voyage is owing to the proficient and dynamic guidance of my learned and worthy supervisor, Prof. (Dr.) Rajesh Gill, Department of Sociology, Panjab University, Chandigarh. Her intellectual precision, penetrative insight, commitment to academic values, zeal for perfection and constructive suggestions have encouraged me a lot in many ways- academic, social and intellectual. In spite of her extremely busy schedule, she has always been kind enough to spare time for this venture. Even during tough time in my life, it is all because of her constant encouragement, sympathetic and appropriate attitude that led me to complete this work. I feel very proud and lucky that I got an opportunity to work under her guidance. The affection she bestowed on me and the experience of working with her shall always remain fresh in my mind. My sincere regards and earnest gratitude to her are eternal.

I feel privileged to thank Prof. Kiran Preet Kaur, the present chairperson of Department of Sociology for her co-operation. I am also thankful to all the faculty members, librarians and all of the staff members of the department for helping me in my research work.

I am also thankful to my dear friends Navneet Arora and Rajni Bala for helping me whenever I needed.
I am also grateful to the principals, teachers, parents and the respondents of all the three schools for the patience, co-operation and confidence they have reposed in me.

No words indeed can express my feelings for my parents to whom I am indebted for a lifetime. I am particularly thankful to my parents, Mr. R.L. Sehgal and Phula Sehgal for their blessings and support all through this period. My warmest thanks are to my dear father and brother Hitesh, for their concern towards my thesis work and constant support and encouragement to complete this task. I would definitely place on record a sense of appreciation and heartfelt thanks to my sisters, Anju and Shaveta and my jiju Mr. Rajesh Taneja for their timely support and encouragement which pushed me up to complete my work. I would like to express my deep love, affection and appreciation for my loving niece Aalishna and nephew Ayaan for refilling me with their encouraging smiles and keeping my spirits up. My dream would not have been possible without the prayers of these two little angels in my life.

Above all I thank my Almighty God who gave me the strength to complete this work.

Date: 15-7-2013
Place: Chandigarh

Meenu Sehgal