ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It take years for Research Scholars in fulfilling their most cherished dream, when they can feel and see the light at the other end of the tunnel. Their hard work on being rewarded, brings enjoy of unexplainable pride when their thesis gets bound in hard cover.

There are hurdles, hazards and difficulties in our path to success but all of these seem to have curtailed by my impeccable and unshaken faith in 'Almighty'. My head bows down in gratitude to the Almighty, whose benevolence gave me strength, perseverance and courage to complete this arduous work.

It is a myth that a dissertation is the soul-wrenching creation solely of its author’s time, toil and tenacity. Many people contributed to drag this investigator kicking and screaming towards her goal. I thank these people for doing so.

At the very onset, I would like to acknowledge my very special gratitude to my mentors and guides Prof. Jitendra Mohan (U.G.C. Emeritus Fellow and Professor Emeritus, Panjab University, Chandigarh) and Prof. Meena Sehgal, Chairman, Department of Psychology, P.U. Chandigarh.

I feel overwhelmed on the very thought crossing my mind that I happen to be a student of Prof. Jitendra Mohan, my ‘guru’ (in the true sense of the word), with whose guidance of unmatched proficiency in the subject and understanding of high caliber, I could do justice to the subject of my research. His overly enthusiasm and integral view on research and his mission for providing ‘only high-quality work and not less’, has made a deep impression on me. He could not even realize how much I have learned from him. I would like to pay my gratitude to him, who by virtue of his professional acumen and expertise rendered selfless assistance in every effort of mine. I'll always be indebted to him for illuminating my path towards destination.

In my endeavor to sharpen my research skills, Prof. Meena Sehgal was always there to lead me to the right course, whenever I was slightly off the track. Her critical comments, disciplinary and perfectionist attitude and encouragement enabled the fruitful completion of this work. Her patience in reading draft after draft of every paper I wrote up continues to amaze me. No one should be subjected to the torture of reading my early attempts at technical writing, and thanks to her. I express my sincere thanks and deep gratitude for her painstaking efforts, guidance, supervision, assistance, pragmatism, patience and above all encouragement, throughout my work.

As a mark of my respect, I offer my sincere and devoted obligation and thanks to both of them and assure that I shall take them as ‘role models’ in my career.
My family has been one perpetual source of encouragement and unconditional support to me that helped me overcome all the hurdles.

Success is a story and a good story has many actors. Most important for me in my career have been character actors. Whatever I wanted in a HUSBAND and a best friend I would not have believed I could meet someone better! My loving husband Nitin Dubey (Advocate), who has been the actual driving force behind my success and would always, be. Making silent sacrifices, I found him always smiling. He had as many sleepless nights as I had. He left no stone unturned to ensure that my research efforts did not go slow. I thank him for simultaneously brandishing a sword to quell the demons of my insecurities; a spoon to bake delectable desserts and a wand to bring joy to my life in so many different ways.

The present study fulfills the cherished dream of my ever dearest parents, Dr. V.N. Tripathi and Smt. Subhash Tripathi. It was due to their parental care, love and affection that I did not lose heart and continued my project relentlessly. I believe I'll be born to them again because I owe to them a lot. Expressing my love and gratitude for them makes me speechless. I feel a sense of great pride on seeing their daughter.

I would be failing in my duty if I do not express sincere gratitude to my ever revered and admirable Father-in-law, Mr. Mukesh Dubey who not only condoned my long hours of absence from home but also emboldened me by his blessings in my pursuit. I acknowledge with great sense of humility, the contributions made by him and express my deep reverence for him.

Somewhere deep within my heart, my mother-in-law, Late Ms. Aksha Dubey would have celebrated in a traditional style on the completion of my work. All along I have been feeling her blessings working for me.

There is no substitute for the comfort supplied by the utterly taken for granted relationship. It is here that I realize that I have no words to express my thanks to my only and lovable sister Priyanka Tripathi, who was always there for helping me get through the difficult times, and for all the emotional support, comradery, entertainment, and care she provided. It can never be put into words.

My special thanks to my cheerful Brother-in-Law Er. Sachin Dubey and his fiancée and my dear friend Rosy who stood by me always and were always found waiting to extend their helping hands. Their countless good wishes have made all this possible.

Life without friends is like a bee hive without honey. This void was filled up appropriately by my ever dearest friend and senior Dr. Shruti Shourie, Lecturer Department of Psychology D.A.V. College Sector 10 Chandigarh, “A friend in need is a friend indeed” is the most appropriate quote, I would like to express for her as she
was a source of encouragement for me throughout my work. I always found her by my side, lending a sympathetic ear and putting my toils in perspective. I fall short of words here.

I also feel blessed and fortunate to have friends who cherish me despite my eccentricities. I would like to thank my nearest and dearest friend Seema and her husband Dr. Tejpal for keeping me grounded and for providing me with some beautiful and memorable experiences. Also, a special thanks to my senior friend Dr. Harinder for her immense support and co-operation during my tough times.

My project would have not been in present shape, had it not been the access to various research articles, tests and materials provided to me by some eminent scholars from all over the globe, who never left a single hit to assist me in every possible way. I pay my humble gratitude to Prof. Robert Enright, Prof. Everett Worthington, Prof. Michael McCullough, Prof. Etienne Mullet, Prof. Robert Emmons, Prof. Mark Rye and Dr. Alex Linley.

I shall not be doing justice to myself, if I do not recognize the help rendered to me by Akhil Kumar Goyal (Advocate), Ashutosh Gupta, and Ms. Navjot who were always too willing to share and help me in Data collection.

I am extremely grateful to all the subjects, who have taken out their valuable time to be a part of the research and without whose contributions, this work would not have been possible. I would like to thank the non teaching staff of Department of Psychology, Panjab University, Chandigarh for their co-operation.

AKANKSHA TRIPATHI
25/10/05.