ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Words seem inadequate and a deep sense of gratitude prevails over the flow of thoughts as I try to express my heartfelt thanks to my esteemed and learned guide, Professor C. N. Daftuar, Ex-Head, Department of Psychology, M. S. University, Baroda, whose encouraging criticism and scholarly guidance have been with me throughout this research work. His invaluable suggestions, innovative ideas and brilliant scrutiny have made this task face the present day. It is his magnanimous yet modest attitude that has steered me through the times of difficulties at every step in this research. For this, I will always remain highly obliged and indebted.

I take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to my teachers

Prof. Bimla Parimu, Head, Department of Psychology, M. S. University,

Baroda and Prof. V. M. Purandage for their able guidance.

My words are few to express profound gratitude and indebtedness to my parents Dr. (Mrs.) Aruna Shukla and Dr. G. N. Shukla. It is their constant efforts, guidance, patience, encouragement and above all their understanding that became a catalytic source of inspiration. Without their support this work probably would not have seen the light of the day. My sisters Nandita and Nidhi deserve a very special thanks for being with me and helping me despite their own busy schedules. In the odd hours without any hesitation they were always there to stand by me.

I would specially like to thank my husband Mr. Pravin Tripathi and my parents-in-law for their patience, support and co-operation.

I cannot forget the sweet interruptions done by my daughters

Meghna and Kusha while I was working.

I would like to thank the authorities of the S.S.G. Hospital, Baroda, for allowing me to conduct this research I also, extend my sincere thanks to the patients and other respondents who formed the base of this research.

My thanks to Mr. Rashmin Sompura for helping me in the analysis of the data.

Last but not the least, I extend my sincere thanks to the staff of Fine Line Computers, who worked day in and day out to bring the whole work in this present form.

October, 2002

Nimisha Shukla