ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

A journey is easier when you travel together. Interdependence is certainly more valuable than independence. This thesis is the result of five years of work whereby, I have been accompanied and supported by many people. It is a delight now to have the opportunity to express my gratitude to all of them.

With immense pleasure I express my sincere gratitude, regards and thanks to my supervisor Prof. A.K. Mohanty for his excellent guidance, invaluable and stimulating suggestions, scholastic supervision and continuous encouragement at all the stages of my research work. This thesis could not have been written without Mohanty Sir who not only supervised my work but also encouraged and challenged me throughout my academic program. He patiently guided me through the thesis process, never accepting less than my best efforts. During these years, I have known Mohanty Sir as a sympathetic and principle-centered person. 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. I owe him lots of gratitude for having me shown this way of research and for his great patience with my mistakes.

I take this opportunity to extend my thanks to all the faculty members of the Zakir Husain Centre for Educational Studies, Prof. Geeta B. Nambissan, Prof. Deepak Kumar, Prof. Dhruv Raina, Dr. Saumen Chattopadhyay, Dr. Minati Panda and Dr. Srinivas Rao for their keen interest in my work and cooperation. I appreciate the assistance provided by the non-teaching staff of Zakir Hussain Centre for Educational Studies, Sneh madam, Rajendra Ji, Seema Madam and Ghani Sir.

I extend my sincere gratefulness to the institutions and their runners for making my field work possible and a success. Their assistance has been of immeasurable help and an experience to be cherished for life. My heart felt thanks to my friends Rajesh Patel and Anamika Verna for their unconditional support and help all through the field work.
My sincere gratitude to the library staff of Jawaharlal Nehru University and National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT). They helped me to collect requisite material for my work.

I would like to thank all my friends for their smiles, cheers and friendship making the life at JNU enjoyable and memorable. I feel lucky to have friends who always supported me during the rigorous ordeal of writing the dissertation. I extend my heartfelt thanks to Rachana, Aprajita and Shalini. I deeply acknowledge the immense help of my better half, Vinarsh, and my friends Archana, Swati and Kiran who took the tedious job of proof-reading the research document.

Most importantly, I feel blessed to have a family that never demanded anything, but unconditionally supported me all the way. I have no words to thank my Jijaji, Roli Didi, my brother Dhawal and my sister-in-law, Ruchi who took all pains to support and facilitate me in my endeavor; my parents for their utmost patience and unburdening my work stress with their care which has triggered and nourished my intellectual maturity that I will benefit from, for a long time to come. My warm thanks to my nieces whose innocent prattles made me develop faith in myself and the world. I extend my deepest gratitude to my parents, my husband and rest of my family for their invaluable love, affection, encouragement and support.

The chain of my gratitude would be definitely incomplete if I would forget to thank the first cause of this chain, using Aristotle’s words, the Prime Mover. At last but not the least, I extend my heartfelt thanks to the Almighty for showing me the light in the moments of darkness.

RUCHI SHUKLA