ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and foremost, I express my utmost gratitude to Dr. H.S.Jhajj, Professor and Former Head, Department of Statistics, Punjabi University, Patiala, whose sincerity and encouragement I will never forget. He has been my inspiration and mentor who has extended his valuable guidance in the preparation and completion of this research work. Without his continuous optimism concerning this work, enthusiasm, encouragement and support this study would hardly have been completed. I am sincerely and heartily grateful to him for the support and guidance he showed me throughout my thesis writing.

I also owe a great debt of gratitude to my co-supervisor, Dr. Davinder Kumar Garg, Associate Professor, Department of Statistics, Punjabi University, Patiala, for his kind dynamic guidance, cooperation and support during the completion of this research work. He has shared valuable insights and given me the breakthrough in producing my first research paper.

It is a pleasure to thank Dr. M.K.Sharma, Professor & Head, Department of Statistics, Punjabi University, Patiala, for providing facilities in the department for carrying out this research work.

I owe my sincere and earnest thankfulness to Prof. (Mrs.) Rajinder Kaur Jhajj and Mrs. Monika Garg for their patience and steadfast encouragement to complete this research work.
I endorse my sincere thanks to all the non-teaching staff members of the department for their patience and generous co-operation during the course of my research work.

I am deeply grateful to my parents who have never failed to give us financial and moral support, for giving all our need during the time we developed our system and for teaching us that even the largest task can be accomplished if it is done one step at a time. My vocabulary runs short of words to acknowledge the affection and moral support rendered by my beloved father Sh. Sagar Mal Mishra, brother Mr. Ashwani and wife Sonia at the time of depression due to untimely death of my beloved mother. I would like to thank my brother Mr. Ashwini who has made available his support in a number of ways.

Last but not the least, I wish to thank my dearest ones, my beloved wife, Sonia and our dear son, Abhay for their love, support, patience and understanding during these years and the one above all of us, the omnipresent God, for answering my prayers for giving me the strength to plod on despite my constitution wanting to give up and throw in the towel, thank you so much Dear Lord!

Dated: (Ghansham)