Acknowledgement

I take this moment to put on record here my gratitude to several persons and institutions whose assistance—financial, academic, personal—has been essential to the completion of this work. Space does not allow me to mention everyone by name but there are a number of individuals and bodies that deserve recognition.

First and foremost, I would like to acknowledge my indebtedness to my supervisor Dr. P.K. Mathur (Associate Professor), Department of Sociology and Social Work, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, for being exceptionally nice to me throughout my research. This study would have never been accomplished without his painstaking, humble and excellent guidance through all the stages of my research.

I am extremely grateful to Prof. Abdul Matin, Chairman, Department of Sociology and Social Work, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, for his intellectual support and encouragement.

I take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to all the teachers of my department for their support and for developing healthy academic environment in the department. I am also thankful to my colleagues at the Department for their kind assistance at various stages of my research. My special thanks to Fayaz Ahmad Bhat for giving his
insightful comments and ably assisting me in the completion of various tasks
associated with this work.

Moreover, I wish to acknowledge and give thanks to the staff of
Maulana Azad, Library, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh; Seminar
Library, Department of Sociology and Social Work, Aligarh Muslim
University, Aligarh; Allama Iqbal Library, University of Kashmir,
Srinagar; JNU Library, New Delhi and National University of Planning
and Administration, New Delhi for helping me in getting the necessary
material for my research work. I am also grateful to the University Grants
Commission for providing me with the fellowship during the period of my
study.

I am thankful to my cousins (Tamhid, Tabinda and Shazia) who
accompanied me during the field-work and assisted me in conducting
interviews. I am deeply indebted to them for their whole hearted co-
operation in many ways during the field work.

I also wish to thank my friends (Nusrat Raza, Sadiqa Khannam,
Sadaf Afrin) and roommates (Afifa Aisha Rehmat, Nahid Akhter Siddiqui)
for their moral support and co-operation and for making Aligarh a
memorable place for me.

I wish to express my heartfelt appreciation to my uncle G.M. Wani,
who has always been more like a father all throughout my life. I am
thankful to him for his critical role in getting access to necessary information and documents which were invaluable inputs in my work.

Finally, with a profound sense of gratitude and love I must express the kind and generous support that I have been receiving from my beloved father, Mohammad Khurshid Bhat and mother, Aisha Bhat. Their blessings have remained a constant source of enlightenment in all my academic endeavours. I dedicate the present work to them. My special thanks are also due to my beloved sister, Fouqia Khurshid for assisting me in the typing of the present work and for her emotional support throughout the study period.

I am grateful to all the respondents for their co-operation and overwhelming response to the interviews without which the present work would not have been accomplished.

Finally, I am very much indebted to all those who have directly and indirectly been associated towards the completion of the present work.

Date:………………

Fouzia Khurshid