Acknowledgements

We all know very well that every act of human being is under the adjudication of the most exalted and omnipotent Almighty Allah. In the light of this fact, I thank Almighty by whose will and blessings I have completed this venture in stipulated parameters of time in a successful manner. Allah has made my life more bountiful. May his name be exalted, honoured and glorified.

By this time, I have worked with a great number of people whose contribution in assorted ways to the research and the making of the thesis deserved special mention. It is a pleasure to convey my gratitude to them all in my humble acknowledgments.

In the first place I would like to convey my gratitude to Prof. Abdul Matin, Chairman Department of Sociology and Social Work for his supervision, advice, and guidance from the very early stage of this research as well as giving me extraordinary experiences throughout the work. Above all and the most needed, he provided me unflinching encouragement and support in various ways, which exceptionally inspire and enrich my growth as a student, and a researcher. I am indebted to him more than he knows.

I extend my sincere thanks to all my respected teachers and the non-teaching staff of my department for their co-operation and encouragement. I also acknowledge my sincere thanks to the staff of Maulana Azad Library, seminar libraries of Sociology and History department, A.M.U. Aligarh, for the help and co-operation by their personnel without which it would perhaps not
have been possible to collect the voluminous information in the preparation of this thesis.

It is a pleasure to express my gratitude wholeheartedly to the Centre for the Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy (CSSEIP) of Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU), Hyderabad for allowing me to access their library and providing me the hostel facility in the campus.

My special thanks to UGC for granting me the fellowship when it was needed the most. It enabled me to work smoothly and I never felt scarcity of funds.

I owe my sincere thanks to my friend Dr. Naila Rashid who supported and helped me in number of ways throughout my research. Her friendship with a critical approach enabled me in overcoming many anticipated and unanticipated difficulties in research and personal life.

It is a pleasure to pay tribute also to all the respondents for their cooperation and patience. I would also acknowledge Mr. Rashid Sayeed Khan, Mr. Farooque, Mr. Syed Akhtar, Ms. Samia Masood, Mrs. Nahid Ahmad and Mrs. Khadija for their advice and their willingness to share their bright thoughts with me, which was very fruitful for shaping up my ideas and research. I am grateful to Tabrez Bhai, Frah, Abdussalam and Swalehin for their kindness and support in many ways. I also thank my roommates Shama, Shabana and Suman for being there for me whenever needed.

I am extremely thankful to Mrs. Safia Roohi who gave me an emotional support during my stay in Hyderabad.

Where would I be without my family? My parents deserve special mention for their unparallel support and prayers. I wish to acquiescence the
gratefulness beyond accountability to my adorable parents, Mr. Mohammad Nasir and Mrs. Masooda Begum whose impalpable affection and morale boosting during every phase of my life, indeed actuated me to make this chimera expectancy true with heartiest reverence, I admire the confidence bestowed on me by them, whatever I am today, I owe it to them.

I acknowledge my grandmother, Mrs. Sultana Begum who built the fundamentals of my learning character, showing me the joy of intellectual pursuit ever since I was a child.

I express my deep regards to my brother, Mohammad Kashif for being supportive and caring sibling. My sisters Samreen, Shehwar and Sumayya with a golden heart always encouraged me to be ambitious. My Brother-in-laws Matloob Hussain Pasha, Mohammad Saeed and Adeel Izhar have been a pillar of moral support and have guided me in number of ways throughout my research.

Finally, I would like to thank everybody who was important to the successful realization of this thesis, as well as expressing my apology that I could not mention them personally one by one.

Before I end, I pray to Almighty to give me better opportunity in the coming years to gain more knowledge, honour and position in order to fulfill the ambitions of my loving parents.

Sadaf Nasir