Acknowledgements

At the outset I would like to express my gratitude to my supervisor Professor Imrana Qadeer. Her guidance, suggestions and feedback have been invaluable to my thesis in its various stage. For her immense support with her time, encouragement and many kindnesses, I shall remain ever grateful. I am indeed deeply indebted to her for the patience and forbearance with which she dealt with my innumerable demands.

I would also like to thank my teachers at the Centre for Social Medicine and Community Health, JNU for their longstanding support. The administrative staff members at the Centre have also always been very helpful- I thank them for their support.

I thank the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, which permitted me to take study leave for completing this work.

I gratefully acknowledge Dr. C.A.K. Yesudian for his concern, constant encouragement and solid support in facilitating the completion of this work. I also want to thank my other colleagues and administrative staff members both past and present of the Department of Health Services Studies. Sanjay particularly deserves special thanks for providing me support all the time and facilitating my work in many ways.

I have been extremely fortunate to have a most generous and loyal friend in Nakkeeran. He not only took on my teaching load so that I could complete the thesis, but provided steadfast support and help, particularly at times of mounting difficulties. He also gave generously of his time to discuss the numerous issues arising out of the work.

As far as fieldwork is concerned, my debts are enormous and many. I am grateful to Chachiji and Mausaji who helped me to translate the schedules. I thank Hira Chacha, Jijaji, Sandeep and Pushpila for accompanying me to the baseline villages. Didi-Jijaji, Taiji and Sunil Bhaiji accommodated me in their home throughout the survey period and extended a generosity that cannot be expressed in words.

My special thanks to the villagers of Bunga and Daurn where I lived and did my in-depth study. My stay there brought me the affection and friendship of many people who went
beyond co-operation, showing me warmth and kindness. But most of all I am indebted to Maji and her daughters Mamta, Annu and Poonam provided me a home away from home and also their daily companionship and continued friendship. Lakshmi, Munni chachi, Susheela chachi, Goli dadi, Manoj, Shakuntala dadi were particularly kind to me. By writing about their lives, I hope I have expressed something of what I feel for them. I thank them all for so much that goes beyond the contents of this thesis.

Annu, Mamta, Poonam and Lakshmi of Bunga village also assisted with transcribing the tapes. While Saeed bhai, Barila, Pushpila and Aseem helped with the translations. Hira chacha helped me with the maps and Sandeep with the photographs. Santhi and Rajshree entered part of the data on SPSS. I gratefully acknowledge their assistance.

I am grateful to the staff of the following libraries where literature search for this study was carried out: Administrative Staff Training Institute, Nainital; G.B. Pant Institute of Environmental Studies, Kolsi (Almora); H.N.B. Bahuguna University, Srinagar; Kumaon University, Nainital; Giri Institute of Development Studies, Lucknow; Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai; Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and CSMCH Documentation Cell, New Delhi. I am particularly grateful to the staff of Centre for Development and Environment, University of Berne for generously and promptly providing me xeroxes of many relevant articles which were not available in India.

I express my sincere thanks to the staff members of the TISS library for their assistance. I thank in particular Mr. Shantaram Shelar for help in the library and his prompt assistance with the binding.

Usha deserves a very warm and special thank you for her caring and concerned typing assistance from the beginning to the end of writing this thesis. I thank her for her calming and comforting presence and very patient and painstaking copy editing. I am deeply grateful to her.

I am especially indebted to Aseem for his friendship and countless kindnesses. I thank him for his unfailing assistance throughout the course of this study and for always stepping in to help in crisis. Knowing that he is around is always reassuring.
My friends Santhi and Nakkeeran have throughout provided me several kindnesses, support, encouragement, and hospitality. I am indeed indebted to them. Rama, Atul and Poonam, Tania, Bena and Prashant, Saman and Saeed Bhai, Menka, Sanghamitra, Kalpana and Bobby, Nirupa, Rajiv and Varsha and Shivani have always been hugely supportive and have helped me in several ways. I’d like to thank them all for everything they did for me and for their affection and care.

I am grateful to my family members and relatives who have supported my endeavour and waited patiently for my thesis to get completed. I would like to thank my in-laws for the support they extended. I would especially like to thank Sharad for his patience and for understanding my priorities, my workaholic lifestyle and for relieving me of many responsibilities to pursue my work. I am deeply appreciative. It is difficult to thank and repay the debt of my parents who have stood by me throughout my life and my sisters Barila and Pushpila who have been an unfailing source of support in every way. I want them to know how much I appreciate and value their support. I am immensely sad that my father is not here to see this work completed, but I hope I have been able to achieve some bit of his dream.

Most of all I would like to thank Padma who has given so generously of her time and knowledge to me- often to the detriment of her own work. For me she has been a pillar of support in every way. She shared many of the experiences and tribulations of my fieldwork and of the thesis writing. With her patience, guidance and affection she saw me through the most difficult periods. To her I owe more than I can express.

Ranila Bisht