Acknowledgements

In the praise of Almighty Allah who bestowed on me the divine guidance to embark upon this task of keeping in realms of facts and events.

Prefacing this thesis has provided me with the much awaited opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude and admiration for my esteemed teacher and supervisor Dr. S.M. Jawed Akhtar, Associate Professor, Department of Economics. His experienced judgement, bountiful advice and constructive criticism, so lavishly endowed in this work, at all times and under all circumstances, have been the sine qua non in giving it the present and final form. To such a distinguished and dedicated teacher I give my sincere thanks and tender my heartfelt respects.

I express my deepest regards and gratitude to the Chairman, Prof. Nisar Ahmad Khan, and former chairman Prof. Abdul Wahab, Department of Economics, AMU, for their critical remarks and suggestions. Their constant guidance and advice are truly praise worthy.

It is my proud privilege and humble duty to acknowledge with gratitude, the help rendered to me by my teachers, Prof. Noman Ahmad, Dr. Mohd. Abdus Salam, Associate Professor, and Dr. Mohd. Azam Khan, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics AMU, Aligarh. Their benevolent guidance, sound suggestions and administrative help have gone way beyond the call of duty.

No words can thank my elder brother Mr. Md Absar Alam (Senior Fellow, Asian Institute of Transport and Development, New Delhi) for sparing his valuable time for helping me. His patient listening to my problems and solving them as per need helped me to this final stage of work.

I am very much thankful to the University Grants Commission for providing adequate financial support in the completion of my research work as I was awarded Junior Research Fellowship by the University Grants Commission in the year 2009. I am also obliged to all staff members of Seminar Library, Department of Economics, Maulana Azad Library, AMU, Aligarh, Exim Bank, JNU; and NCEAR, Sa-Dhan, New Delhi.
I am extremely thankful to my friends and colleagues Manzoor Alam, Dr. Ziaul Haque, Md. Rehan Khan, Dr. Iqbal Zafar Ansari, Dr. Malik Yasir Ahmad, Shahnawaz Alam, Tariq Masood, Jiyaur Rahman, Afzal Sayed, Abdullah, Waseem, Taheer, Yawar, Moeen bhai and Saba Parween for their patience, co-operation, encouragement and moral support from time to time.

I would be failing in my duties if I do not thank my wife Nargis Parween, who was more concerned than me about this work. Her support and encouragement gave real pace for this study. I am also thankful to my son Mihran Masroor and my younger brothers Md. Faiz Alam, Md. Mashood Alam and Md Mashkoor Alam. Their smile always encouraged me to work effortlessly.

Finally, words will never be enough to express my gratitude to my parents for their blessings and moral support.

Md Masroor Alam