Acknowledgements

“Adversity brings the best of man” and this thesis is the outcome of the challenging situations that I have gone through during my life-enriching experience in JNU. First of all, I express my gratitude to the Almighty for giving me the strength to endure and overcome the demoralising and mentally traumatizing situations that made me all the more resolute in completing this thesis. My inviolable faith on God was perpetually reinforced when He send me a Messiah in some form or the other (whether in the form of my guide or friends).

Secondly, I am most obliged to my supervisor Dr. Renuka Singh, without whose encouragement and conviction in my competency to meet the deadline, this thesis would not have become a reality. I reserve my deepest gratitude for her because she acted as life saviour for me when it seemed that the whole world was conniving to capitulate me. Her calming presence, inspirational motivation and intellectual stimulation, actuated me to take this task as a challenge and prove my mettle. Her presence reinforced my faith that the world is also filled with genuine and helpful people.

I would like to thank my friends Nidhi and Charu who have supported me with their intermittent boosting discussions. Last but not the least; I am indebted to my parents without whose invariable support and sacrifice I wouldn’t have progressed so far. Their blessings and infallible belief in my potential stimulated me to progress without worrying about anything. I would also like to thank my brother Sun whose vibrancy added colour to the otherwise mentally saturating process. This thesis is also dedicated to my husband Teddy who provided space beyond the domestic sphere and waited for me to complete my doctoral work.