ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Research in social sciences has become a joint effort of man and machine, today. On the one hand, the proper guidance from experts, guides, teachers and co-operation from kind persons is essential, on the other the computer has equally important role to help the scholars in analysing the data bank for them.

In my research, the entire credit goes to my supervisor Dr. Kamlesh Mahajan, Reader and Head, Department of Sociology, Ismail National Mahila P. G. College, Meerut for her blessings, love, affection and care, she has extended to me during the entire period of this work. I am thankful to her from the core of my heart.

I have no words to thank Dr. Dharam Vir Mahajan, Reader and Head, Department of Sociology, NAS (PG) College, Meerut for his encouragement, help and guidance in all respects throughout this study.

I feel pleasure to express my gratefulness towards my father Shri Ghansi Ram, my mother Smt. Harnandi, my brother Manoj Kumar Badli, my bhabhi Nirmal Badli, my sisters Seema Badli, Pinky Badli and Reshma Badli and my nieces Nikita Badli and Anshika Badli and all the friends without whose support and co-operation this work would have remained incomplete.

Lastly, I am grateful to my respondents and all others, who have assisted me in this difficult task, directly or indirectly in collection of material or otherwise. Respondents were very co-operative and enthusiastic. My all the best wishes for them.

(Sushma Rani)