ACKNOWLEDGMENT

With the grace of GOD, the almighty and the support of my entire family specially my children Aman and Ankita whose love and unstinted support enriched me, rejuvenated me and infused in me the courage, undying spirit and will power when my chips were low especially during the grave illness after the detection of Breast cancer during the course of Ph.D. studies.

As the saying goes "the people who get the most satisfactory results are not only the people with brilliant mind but the people who can best coordinate with the brains and talent of their friends, colleagues and mentors". How true is this.

I would most respectfully acknowledge the support of my supervisors Prof. R.K. Khar and Prof. Asgar Ali. Dr. Khar's persistent patting, encouragement, words of praise and motivation filled in me the zeal to reach the goal. Thank you, Sir for extending all help and guidance.

Prof. Asgar Ali my learned supervisor whose unstinted support was there throughout the research work. It was an opportunity working under his supervision. I was immensely benefited from his experience and knowledge at every juncture during the stupendous task. He took out all stops and spared a lot of his time even during holidays only to expedite my work. This dedicated attitude to research work and profession in general is commendable. I shall ever be indebted to him.

I am also grateful to Prof. Mohd. Ali, Mr. Abid Ali and Mr. Mushtaq for lending technical support and guidance.

My special thanks to Mr. Islam Ansari for standing by my side extending all miscellaneous help which I needed from time to time.

I reserve my special gratitude to Ms. Shaeeda Ali, my dear friend for constantly supporting me during the period of illness and ultimate recovery. She looked after me like an ever loving sister. Without her support, it would not have been possible to conclude this thesis.

I also thank Mr. Rahul Jain my junior colleague for all the assistance provided by him. I also would like to thank Mr. Hitesh Mendiratta my typist for his cooperation.

Finally, my acknowledgement would be incomplete without special thanks to my husband, Mr. Ajay Arora who supported me 24 x 7 hours throughout this arduous task.

(Aika Arora)