PREFACE

Political scientists have always regarded local self-government as an important area of study because elective and popular bodies are the primary stages of a democratic polity. Local leaders are the base of a power structure and power process at the grassroot level. In almost all the countries, there has been a great emphasis on the study of leadership. A study in leadership reveals many dimensions of the process of social change in a traditional society like ours. Likewise, the introduction of 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments in India, women leadership had attracted the attention of social scientists. Because of the crucial role of leaders of leaders in the process of change at grassroot level we have focused at the study of women leaders of grassroot level institutions.

In the context the study of women leadership in local government institutions in Haryana is significant socially as well as academically. The present study is a modest attempt in this direction. This is an empirical study of women leaders of district Faridabad. The study has been purported to provide an empirical base for intensive insight into the socio-economic basis of these women leaders, their knowledgeability awareness and value orientations. The data collected on these issues from the Panchayati Raj Institutions and Municipal Bodies have been
organized and presented into seven chapters. The first chapter deals with an introductory note on the theoretical framework of the women leaders, a review of the relevant literature and the methodological procedure of the study. The second chapter includes the status of women in historical perspective. The third chapter includes socio-economic background of women leaders. The fourth chapter deals with the political background, knowledgeability and awareness of women leaders. The fifth chapter includes the study of the socio-economic value orientation of the women leaders. The chapter sixth deals with the political orientation and participation of women leaders. The last chapter, conclusion presented the summary of he findings.

To complete this work, I have gathered information from all possible gathered information from all possible sources, both primary and secondary. I have consulted several magazines, reports, reviews etc. for relevant information. I am thankful to my professors, friends and scholars for their encouragement and valuable advices.

Meena Kumari
(Meena Kumari)