ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It is my privilege to express my sincere gratitude and regards towards my guide Professor Dr. Sherry Sabbarwal for her expert guidance, inspiration and encouragement during all the steps in the course of my study.

I am also deeply thankful to the Department of Sociology for providing me all the possible help in the course of my work.

I am thankful to the Department of Education, Chandigarh Administration and University Grants Commission, New Delhi for allowing me to complete my PhD as Teacher Fellow under the Faculty Improvement Programme of the UGC under its XI th plan.

I am thankful to the respondents who helped me collect all the data which forms the basis of my study.

Lastly, I am thankful to my teachers, friends and family members without whose cooperation, it would have been difficult for me to complete the study.

(Manoj Kumar)