ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Today with humility, misty eyes and folded hands when I am thanking Almighty in these blissful moments, I am also expressing my innermost into words. Research is an arduous task, which involves consistent and dedicated mind with regards to the strenuous and hard labour put into it. This would only be made possible with the benediction and grace of Almighty.

It is a moment of gratification and pride to look back with a sense of contentment at the long travelled path, to be able to recapture some of the fine moments, to be able to thank the infinite number of people, some who were with me from beginning, some who joined me at some stage during the journey, whose kindnes, love and blessings have brought me to this day. I wish to thank each of them by all my heart.

On the successful completion of my Ph.D thesis, I consider it my distinct honour and privilege to express my deepest sense of gratitude and indebtedness to my venerable supervisor, Dr. Manohar Lal Sharma, Professor and Chairman, Department of Gandhian Studies, Panjab University, Chandigarh for his unstinted help, continuous encouragement and invaluable guidance, constructive criticism, precious suggestions and benevolent attention and tireless efforts with out which it would not have been possible for me to execute this project successfully.

I am thankful to Professor J.N. Sharma and Dr. Ashu Pasricha for their kind cooperation during my research work. I also owe immense gratitude to Dr. Manish Sharma, whose advice, words of inspiration and immense knowledge enabled me to accomplish this thesis.

I owe to the moral support, sacrifices, support and encouragement they have showered on me. A stock of loving appreciation is reserved for
my Parents Sh. Prem Singh Sharma and Smt. Krishna Sharma, Elder Brother Pradeep Sharma, Bhabhi Vanita and Neeraj Sharma and my Sisters for their extreme affection and love that will always remain close to my heart.

My thanks are due to my friends and relatives for helping me in the arduous task of moving around for collecting the necessary material and complete my research work.

I am extremely thankful to University Grant Commission (UGC), New Delhi, for the award of J.R.F. and S.R.F. which enabled me to carry out my work comfortably. Besides, I am also grateful to the Librarian, A. C. Joshi Library, Panjab University, Chandigarh for helping me in procuring the relevant material for my study. Facilities provided by The British Library, Chandigarh, State Library, Chandigarh, National Gandhi Museum, New Delhi and The American Library, New Delhi are acknowledged with thanks. I am also very thankful to the staff of Gandhi Bhawan and Department of Gandhian Studies for their kind cooperation.

Special thanks to Mr. Sandeep Kumar and his staff of M/s Shiva Traders, Sector 14, Panjab University, Chandigarh for taking so much pain to complete this work.

Nitin Sharma
12/09/11