Acknowledgement

The present thesis would not have been what it is but for the timely assistance and support coming from various quarters during every stage. Therefore, I owe a lot to various individuals who contributed a great deal towards the completion of this work.

I am greatly indebted to my supervisor, Dr. Romesh Pandey, Reader, Department of Evening Studies, Panjab University, Chandigarh for his constant encouragement, valuable suggestions and excellent guidance during the preparation of this thesis.

I extend my sincerest thanks to my worthy teachers Prof. H.S. Shergill (Chairman), Prof. M.R. Aggarwal, Dr. A.C. Julka (Reader) and Sh. Naveen Sharma (Lecturer) at the Department of Economics, Panjab University Chandigarh, and Dr. S. Bhide, Director, National Council of Applied Economic Research, New Delhi, for their valuable suggestions and comments.

My thanks are also due to the librarians of the main library and the library of the Department of Laws of Panjab University, Chandigarh and various institutions at New Delhi namely, National Council of Applied Economic Research; Indian Council of World Affairs; Indian Council of Social Science Research; Indian Institute of Public Administration; University of Delhi (Rattan Tata Library); Indian Institute of Foreign Trade and Research and Information System for Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries.

I am thankful to Sh. Guldeep Singh, Programmer, Centre for Computer Science and Applications, Panjab University Chandigarh, for his valuable support during the computation and analysis of data.

I owe special thanks to my parents, and my wife, Sunita, for their patience, inspiration and encouragement throughout this enduring task. I would also like to thank my cousin, Sh. D.K. Joshi, for his help and co-operation.

And finally, I would like to compliment Sh. Sawarn Singh for his workmanship and thank him for the personal interest he has taken in meticulously laser setting the thesis.

\[\text{(Vinod Kumar)}\]