Acknowledgements

The acknowledgements are due to:

- Dr. Surya Kant, my esteemed teacher and supervisor for supervising the present dissertation.
- Dr. R.P.S. Gosal and Dr. Smita Bhutani, former Chairpersons and Dr. Dhian Kaur, present Chairperson, Department of Geography, Panjab University, for providing all the available research facilities in the department.
- Professor Gopal Krishan for his encouragement and stimulating thoughts and also for fruitful discussions on this theme.
- All colleagues in the department for their kind help and cooperation.
- Mr. Mohan Singh for Cartographic assistance.
- Mr. Rakesh Arora for efficient typing.
- My friend, Dr. Rajni Lamba for always being there for me.
- My parents for their inspiration and for ingraining in me perseverance.
- My husband, Er. Jasbir Singh for his constant support and cooperation provided to me, most gladly and readily.

24-12-2004

Ravinder Kaur