Acknowledgements

God has always been especially benevolent to me, guiding me at every step through my life. I would record my heartfelt gratitude to him for being there for me and blessing me in the successful completion of this onerous work. It becomes my moral duty to express my gratitude to all these individuals.

First and foremost, I offer my profound thanks to my supervisor, Dr. Irfan Ahmad, Department of Commerce, Aligarh Muslim University, for their expert guidance, affectionate support and relentless supervision throughout the period of my research. I am deeply indebted to him not only for creative suggestions and active support but also for teaching the real values of life. These few words only convey my formal thanks but cannot convey the depth of my gratitude to him.

I am grateful to Prof. Mohd. Mohsin Khan, Dean, Faculty of Commerce who has provided necessary support and facilities for undertaking my research work. I would like to express my thanks to Prof. Javed Alam Khan, Chairman, and Department of Commerce, who has motivated me continuously till the completion of the present study. I am intensely grateful to him.

A study like this is never an outcome of efforts put in by a single person, rather it bears an imprint of a number of persons who have helped in completing the research. I owe a special word of appreciation to Late Prof. Samiuddin, Ex-Dean & Ex-Chairman, Department of Commerce, AMU for his constant source of inspiration.

I am thankful to Prof. Badar Alam Iqbal, Prof. Ziauddin Khairouwala, Prof. Sibghatullah Farooqi, Prof. Naqueb Ali Khan, Prof. Inamul Haque, Prof. Husain Ashraf, Prof. Iman Salem, Prof. Nasir Zainir Qureshi, Prof. Nafees Ahmad and Prof. Ashraf Ali Department of Commerce, AMU for their constant support at different stages of my research.

I am deeply indebted to the Department of Commerce, Aligarh Muslim University for selecting me and providing me an opportunity to pursue my graduation, post graduation and doctoral research. I also sincerely acknowledge to all my teachers from whom I have learnt a lot during my studies.

I owe a special word of appreciation to my father Mr. Dhum Singh and my mother Mrs. Ratan Devi for their unfailing support. I believed that it is their sincere prayers that
have really done wonders for the completion of this work. I feel highly privileged to express
my heartfelt gratitude to my elder sister Mrs. Pranila Devi and elder brother Mr. Santosh
Kumar. The unconditional love and unending support of my family has been a major factor
in giving me the strength of mind to complete my study.

Friends have been an important part in my life and without their support and
help, it would have been difficult on my part to complete this work. I take this
opportunity to thanks my friends Mr. Rohit Kela, Mr. Chandra Kant Sharma, Mr. Shivam
Jindal, Mr. Nitin Bharadwaj, Mr. Saurabh Kumar, CA. Henant Varshney, Mr. Dinesh
Kumar, Mr. Shahid and Mr. Dileep Misra for their kind help at different points of time.

My honest and sincere thanks to my friend Dr. Dhanraj Sharma for helping me in
my research work at different stage and also stood by me through all the difficult
situations. I sincerely acknowledge the help and assistance received from Dr. Ruchita
Verma in my research work.

I take this opportunity to thank my seniors Dr. Anit Varshney, and research
fellows Dr. Syed Mhd. Taqi Rizvi, Dr. Nazneen Shahid, Dr. Sabiha Usman, Dr. Henkant
Kulshrestha, Dr. Gish Kumar, Dr. Bhavana Ravat, Dr. Shaheeraz Khan and Dr. Sana
Rahman for their valuable suggestions and kind cooperation. Though, it is not possible to
thank each one of them individually, I would like to thank many friends and colleagues for
their moral support in bringing out this research.

I wish to record my sincere thanks to the office of the Faculty/Department of
Commerce, Seminar Library and Computer Lab. for their administrative assistance and
help throughout my Ph.D. program.

Finally, I would like to say that while I share my achievement with all those
mentioned above, I take the sole responsibility for any shortcoming.

All cannot be mentioned but will always be remembered.

(Pushpender Kumar)