ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The present endeavour became an actuality by the concerted effort of several people. My first and foremost gratitude to Dr K. A. Shirali, without whose encouragement, valuable guidance and healthy criticism, it would not have been possible to pursue and complete this task. All the faculty members are thanked as well.

I take this opportunity also to thank, above all, my parents who have been a constant source of inspiration and their determination and confidence shown in me, made me reach this far. Besides, my parents-in-law, especially my companion, Anil, who endured me all through and acknowledged my moments of frustration. My son, Kshitij, though small, but for having cooperated with my inattentiveness obediently and for not throwing tantrums, while I was studying. I wish to thank my brother, Mohit, as well for all his support.

Another person who deserves due acknowledgement and recognition is Chachi, who took care of all my household responsibilities during this period. My sincere thanks to her for standing by my side even at odd hours.

My childhood friend Honey who brought out the best in me and provided this thesis a qualitative orientation. Her sister Diamond for always giving me moral support.
A word of thanks to Dr Kulwinder Singh for his kind help in providing statistical understanding. Grateful acknowledgements are extended to Vermaji, Amrish, Anjana and Arshad for their cooperation in processing this thesis.

Most of all, I wish to express gratitude to all the Kinnauri women for their support and patience shown throughout the lengthy and tiring process of data collection.

25 July 1998

(Niti Sain)