ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I feel elated in expressing my deepest gratitude to my revered guide and supervisor, Dr. Ravinder Vinayek, Professor, Department of Commerce, M. D. University, Rohtak, for generously sharing his wisdom, knowledge, and divinity, and at the same time inspiring and illuminating me through his valuable advices and suggestions. I am really grateful to him for his constant encouragement, useful comments, unmatched patience and philosophical views. Indeed, it was the decisive moment of my life when he accepted me as a student and follower. Each and every time, when he said to me ‘God Bless You’, I got the desired. I extend immense appreciation to God for giving me an opportunity to meet with a person like him.

I express my heart felt thanks to Dr. Narender Kumar Garg, Professor and Head, Department of Commerce, M. D. University, Rohtak and Dr. S. D. Vashishta, Professor, Department of Commerce, M. D. University, Rohtak for providing me an opportunity to initiate this research work and for their generosity towards me throughout the period of my study. I also owe thanks to all the other teachers in the Department of Commerce, M. D. University, Rohtak for their blessings and encouragement in this academic pursuit. I have walked in the shadows of their greatness, and I honor all and every one of them.

I would also like to gratefully acknowledge Professor Shyam Lal Gupta, Department of Management Studies, Kurukhetra for the inspiration and support he rendered to me throughout this work. I would also like to express special thanks to Dr. Surinder Kumar, Professor, Department of Economics, M. D. University, Rohtak; Dr. Balwinder Singh, Associate Professor, Department of Commerce & Business Management, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, and Professor Ravi Shanker, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi for their invaluable time and suggestions for this study.
My thanks also go to the official staff of the Department of Commerce, M. D. University, Rohtak for their valuable co-operation and support during the whole period of this study.

I would also like to take an opportunity to thank University Grants Commission for the generous grants they provided to me in the form of University Research Scholarship and Junior Research Fellowship, for the initiation and completion of this work. I am also thankful to the authors whose works I have consulted and quoted in this work.

I dedicate this work to my courageous and adorable mother, Smt. Premlata Gupta, who taught me about the difference between right and wrong, and to the memory of my father, Sh. Premsagar Gupta whose light and love continue to shine through my life. I also devote this work to my beloved sister Ms. Preeti Gupta, and my dearest brother Mr. Vivek Sagar Gupta, as both of them are always by my side and their love and support knows no limits. My family members are the precious jewels of my life, and they illuminate every breath I take through their very existence. I really owe this work to each and every one of them.

My heartfelt thanks and appreciation also extend to all my friends and well wishers who helped me in any way during this work.

Above all, I owe to the grace of Almighty, whose divine light provide me the perseverance, guidance, inspiration, faith and strength to carry out this work.

(REETI GUPTA)