PREFACE

The United Arab Emirates with an extreme arid environment endowed with vast oil resources but with a small population of around 1 million, plays an important role in the world politics and economic diplomacy. Since its creation in 1971 the country has undergone a dramatic socio-economic transformation. Despite a phenomenal affluence and prosperity the country lacks an effective training and mobilisation of its indigenous labour-resources. It heavily depends on the imported skilled manpower, particularly from the Asian countries, for its oil industrial sector and construction sector. India as one of the chief exporters of skilled manpower plays a significant role in changing the economic face of UAE. The present study is one of the few studies on the Indian labour migrants to the Gulf countries, and particularly, to the United Arab Emirates. The study has a geographical perspective on the volume and pattern of Indian labour force to the seven Sheikhdoms of the UAE and the various problems associated with them. It examines the existing socio-economic condition and the future prospects of Indian migrants to this oil rich nation.

It is a great privilege to express my sincere thanks to Professor R.C. Sharma, my supervisor who gave me inspiration, encouragement and valuable suggestions so that I could complete the present volume. I am specially indebted to him for taking pain and offering me guidance from time to time as to provide a coherent shape to the
study of Indian Migrants in the United Arab Emirates.

I owe my gratitude to Mr. Tondon, Department of Immigration, Ministry of Labour; Mr. K. Chandra, Ministry of External Affairs; Mr. Babulal, Library Assistant of Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, for extending immense help in collecting and providing the relevant data for the present study. I also wish to record my gratitude to Mr. Bose, Librarian of the United Nations Information Centre, New Delhi who allowed me to use the United Nations documents.

A special thanks is due to my colleagues Mr. M. R. Mohanty and Mr. Amit Sen Gupta who helped and encouraged me during the process of writing the thesis.

I express my gratitude to my friends Mr. Rulshele, Mr. Pradip Pachapinde, Miss Kasturi Basu, Mr. B. C. Vaidhya, and Sanjeev Acharya for assisting me in several ways.

Date: 20 July 1988

Jawaharlal Nehru University
New Delhi-110067