Acknowledgements

I do not have enough words to express my gratitude to my supervisor Prof. Anand Kumar. This Thesis could not have been completed without his careful supervision, inexhaustible patience and unfailing guidance. At every stage of this work he was a constant source of inspiration. I am greatly indebted to him for encouraging me to develop research aptitude, skills and quest for knowledge. He was always available whenever I had problems or doubts. His critical comments and suggestions were of immense help to me. I consider myself fortunate to have him as my supervisor.

I wish to express my heart-felt thanks to Prof. K.L. Sharma, Prof. Y. Singh, Prof. R.K. Jain., T.K. Oommen, Prof Avijit Pathak, Prof. Ehsanul Haq, Prof. Dipankar Gupta, Prof. S.S. Jodhka, Prof. Mmatrayee Chaudhuri, Prof. Susan Viswanathan, Prof. M.N. Panini, Dr. Nilika Mehrotra and Dr. A.K. Sharma from the Center for the Study of Social Systems, School of Social Sciences, for extending their every kind of help and for encouraging me in pursuing my research work. Prof. Tiplut Nongbri, the chairperson has always been nice to me for encouraging my work. I am also thankful to Prof. A.K. Pandey, Department of Sociology, BHU for his encouragement in my higher studies. I am equally thankful to other faculty members and staff of the Centre for their cooperation and encouragement in the course of this study.

I am thankful to University Grants Commission for providing me JRF/SRF which really helped me in meeting my research expenses. I also offer my thanks to Librarians, Dr. U.M. Rao and staff of JNU Central Library, DSA library in the Center, Teen Murti Library, Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, American Center Library and British Council Library for providing me valuable research materials.

I wish to thank Prof. B.K. Jain and Prof. R.K. Kale, Deans of Students for providing me smooth and comfortable stay in hostel during my research work.

The helps extended toward me by Dr. B.S. Tiwari, SLS, JNU, and Mr. Nagesh Tiwari, Varanasi for completion of this work have always been unforgettable. Dr. R. N. Tiwari, Mr. Omkar N. Upadhyaya Dr. V. S. Tiwari, BARC Indore, Mr. Anand Pandey,
Dr. Chandrashekhar Mishra, Mr. Mahendra P. Mishra, Mr. Rajendra. P. Mishra and Dr.Surendra Mishra have always offered their all kind of support and blessing for my bright career in life.

I am really grateful to Vijay Singh, Ajay Singh and family members, Mr. Shiv Kumar Singh and his all the family members, Dr. Randhir Singh and his family members and Mr. Jaipal Singh, Om Veer Singh, Mr. Devendra Singh Lathar and other family members for offering their all help during my field work, which was essential for completion of this work.

I am grateful to my parents and family members who always had to bear my absence in home. Without their blessings and love this study could not have reached fruition.

Although writing a Ph.D. Thesis is an exercise in solitude, friends are always of great help in providing moral support and encouragement. In particular I wish to extend my thanks towards Chandradeet, Nand Lal, Aditya Arya, Predeep Pandey, Alok Ranjan, Ravi Kumar, Sanjay Singh, Sanjay Pandey Awadhesh Kumar Singh, Prashant Pastore, Vikas Kumar, Jay Prakash Dube, Agam Singh, Pramod Sharma, Arvind Singh, Anil Singh and family, Shishir Tiwari, Sambha Siva Vatti, Prasda Naik, Sadanand Sahoo and Nabonipa Bhatacharjee.

(Haresh Narayan Pandey)