Acknowledgement

I owe a deep sense of gratitude to my supervisor Prof. Sudesh Nangia, Centre for the Study of Regional Development, J. N. U. for her guidance and constant encouragement during the entire phase of my research work, without which the work would not have been completed. Her valuable suggestions and criticisms of the entire manuscript have greatly improved the quality of this study. She helped me to tackle many impasses.

I am grateful to the chairperson, Prof. Aslam Mahmood, Dr. P. M. Kulkarni and Prof. Amitabh Kundu for their valuable comments in the application of quantitative techniques. I wish to express my thanks to all the faculty members of C. S. R. D. for their support during my research work. I am thankful to Dr. K. N. S. Yadav, B. H. U., Varanasi, Prof. Shekhar Mukherji, I. I. P. S., Bombay and Prof. Anil Kumar, Bhagalpur University, Bhagalpur for their valuable remarks. I am particularly indebted to Prof. Surya Mohan Jha, Godda College, Godda for helping me to edit the final draft of this work.

I will not do justice if I do not express my wholehearted gratitude to my friend Ashok Singh who arduously did the proof reading of my thesis with great patience. For the practical aspects of map drawing by computer, I am indebted to my junior Bhaskar Deo Mishra, who instructed me with a lot of useful tips and spent his valuable time in explaining me some of the basic principles of mapping. I want to express my profound gratitude to my friend Phool Badan, warden of Mandavi hostel who provided me accommodation in his hostel in my dark days. I take this opportunity to express regards to my principal, Sri Gulab Sah for various kinds of support. My debt to him is immense and everlasting. I extend my immense gratitude to all the respondents, who patiently provided all possible information to the best of their knowledge.
I would not have even dared to start the work without the emotional support of my parents. Mere words cannot express my gratitude for Daya and Babuji. I owe a lot to them. Again, the blessing and support I received from my family members were constant sources of inspiration. My wife, Piyushbala extended full cooperation and encouragement at every stage without which this work would not have been possible. Last but not the least I must thank my son, Marshan Mayand for his ungrudging sacrifice in the travails of this work.

Finally, I take full responsibility for the views put forward and for the errors that may occur in the thesis.

(SARVOTTAM KUMAR)