Acknowledgement

It gives me greatest pleasure to thank all my well wishers who have contributed in various capacities to this research work.

First and foremost, I wish to acknowledge with gratitude the academic and administrative support I received in the Centre for the Study of Regional Development, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University in the course of my Ph.D. work. I sincerely thank the Chairpersons of the Centre for their untiring support which made it possible for me to conduct my research.

Next, I wish to extend my immense gratitude and respect to my supervisor Prof. Sudesh Nangia for her unstinted support and encouragement and her constructive suggestions throughout the course of my work.

I would also like to express my sincere regards to all my teachers for their constant encouragement. I specially am grateful to Dr. Anuradha Banerjee, for her moral support and useful suggestions during the final stage of my work.

I am thankful to the University Grants Commission (UGC) for providing me with the financial support through junior and senior research fellowships.

I would also like to thank all those officials, shopkeepers, general public, theater managers, postmasters in post offices, bank managers and doctors in private clinics and hospitals in Thanesar, Fatehabad and Haileymandi who made my field work a success. My special thanks are due to my cousin Shri Rohtas Nimbarayan, Assistant, Haryana State Agricultural Marketing Board, Panchkula (Haryana), who introduced me to the staff and secretaries of market committee. I am grateful to Shri Nachchatar Singh Malhan, Secretary, Market Committee, Fatehabad (Haryana), for his enduring patience during my stay with him during my field study. He not only made my stay very comfortable but also provided me the relevant data and other information about the area under study. I am indebted to Shri Chattar Pal Singh, Secretary, Market Committee, Thanesar (Haryana) for providing data and information for the field-work. I am very thankful to the Market Committee staff of Haileymandi (Haryana) for providing information on market-data and other field assistance.

The headmasters, principals of the schools and colleges and senior medical officers need special mention for providing data on education and medical infrastructure in the towns under study.
I would also like to thank the staff of Kurukshetra University, for sparing their valuable time to answer my questions. I acknowledge the help extended by CSRD office staff, as and when needed. My special thanks are to Madan Mohan and K. Varghese for their computer assistance in processing the data and map work.

I also thank the library staff of Jawaharlal Nehru University, Institute of Town Planners, India, National Institute of Urban Affairs, Central Secretariat Library and Town and Country Planning Organization for their help and co-operation whenever sought.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to my friend Ms. Paramita Majumdar for her continuous and spontaneous support during my research work. Let me now thank warmly to all those, without whose constant encouragement, the work would not have taken the present shape. My friends Kalyan, Shahnawaz, Sohel, and juniors Afroz, Bipalabh, Papia, Simanti and Uday need special mention.

My heart is full of gratitude for all members of my family who not only showed their utmost patience during the long and enduring years of my research but also showered their loving care and best wishes and provided strong financial and emotional support as and when I required it. I have just no words to express my thanks to them. I can only submit that I feel proud of being a member of such a family.

Last but not the least, my family has given me life. My University has given me knowledge. My friends and society provided me the base for research. How can I not be grateful to them all! a revoir

Date: 19th August, 1999

(KULDIP SINGH)