ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to take the opportunity to express my intense gratitude to all those who helped and encouraged me to complete this research work.

First of all, I am grateful to my supervisor for providing me sagacious guidance marked by his stupendous knowledge, clear vision, and for his very patient and unstinted supervision of my research work right from the beginning till the last stage of this thesis.

I must mention the co-operation of my natal family, not only from my home country but also from other parts of the world, for their heart felt co-operation. I owe my special gratitude to my elder sister who herself is highly professional woman in her own right, and who gave me too valuable time during my field study.

I express my sincere appreciation and thanks to Bangladesh Grants Commission for their co-operation during my field study in Bangladesh. I hereby express my deep regard to Prof. Helaluddin, Shamsul. Arefeen. and Prof. Nazrul Islam
from department of sociology under Dhaka University, Bangladesh, for their valuable advice from time to time.

For computer analysis, I would like to thank my ex colleague Saroj Kumar and his associate M. Anis from Dhaka for meticulously compiling the data sheet after devicing an appropriate format for the purpose. I am also thankful Sanjay Kumar and Dharmapal Rawat for their efforts in feeding the material in computer and shaping my thesis in the present form. I am also thankful to my other friends and colleagues who constantly gave me support during my research period.

I also express my gratitude to J.N.U. computer personnels as well as well as Dr. Nagi, Director for the Center for Social Development, New Delhi for their valuable help in data processing. I am also very much thankful to my younger sister Ishrat Jahan who has been a source of inspiration apart from rendering active assistance in completing my thesis. There are more names, whom, I wish I could have mentioned as a gesture of gratitude but for the limited scope of the list. At last I am showing my heart-felt indebtedness to these women who made this research possible for sharing their valuable time in providing very useful information for my research work.