Acknowledgements

Life offers only few chances to concede the cordial gratitude and appreciation to all those persons without whom we could not imagine to complete our task in an organized manner. I do not want to slack the opportunity which give me immense pleasure to acknowledge the help, support, encouragement and guidance that I received in the course of competition of this thesis.

At the outset, I owe a deep sense of gratitude and profound indebtedness to my research guide Prof. S.K. Singh, Department of Mathematical Demography and Statistics, International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai, for the valuable guidance, continuous support and encouragement throughout the study. He showed me ways of approaching to any research problem and further the way of achieving it in different manner. He not only facilitated my research and encouraged all my endeavors, but also provided me constant moral support.

I also express my sincere thanks to my advisory committee members, Dr. R.B. Bhagat, Professor and Head, Department of Migration and Urban Studies, IIPS and Dr. Aparajita Chattopadhyay, Assistant Professor, Department of Development Studies, IIPS whose consistent guidance and useful advice helped me a lot at different stages of this research work.

I am very grateful to Prof F. Ram, Director & Senior Professor, IIPS, for providing me an opportunity to undertake this work and steering me by his invariable support throughout my work.

I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all my teachers and faculty members at the institute, who have been extremely generous in sparing their time whenever approached for help. I am obliged to the Ph.D. coordinator Prof P. Arokiasamy, Professor and Head, Department of Development Studies, IIPS for providing all the necessary recourses in completion of this thesis.

The financial support of Junior Research Fellowship, provided by the University Grant Commission, Ministry of Human Resources Development, Government of India has been invaluable and without it this study would not have reached to its completion.
I am deeply grateful to Prof. R.C. Yadava, Senior Professor, Department of Statistics, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, Dr. L. K. Dwivedi, Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematical Demography & Statistics, IIPS for their valuable suggestions at various stages to improve the thesis as well as their support and encouragement to complete this work.

The constant inspiration and support received from Mr. Niraj Kumar Singh, Ph.D. Scholar, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, always kept my moral up during applications of various models fitting. In spite of his own busy work schedule, he always gave time to me related to mathematical problems. I am very much thankful to his cooperation and active support.

The role of Mr. M. Sekar, Assistant Registrar (Academic), IIPS, requires special mention here in pursuing this research. His helpful hands not only provided me the support but also gave me the strength to carry out my research work. I am very much thankful to Mr. Somnath, Mr. Ankush, Smt. Dhanlakhmi, Mr. T.S. Badwe, Mr. Tilak and all other staff members of academic section for their kind cooperation in research and other academic achievements.

I would like to acknowledge the assistance received from Mr. D. D. Mestry, Librarian, IIPS and Mr. K. Praveen Kumar, Assistant Librarian, IIPS. Mr. Vasu, Mr. Ashish, Mr. Sudhir, Mr. Rakesh, Mr. Santosh, Mr. Vidhate and other staff members of library were of very helping nature and always helped me in various ways. I am very much thankful to Prof. M. Guruswamamy and Prof. Syeed Unisa, In-charge, computer centre, IIPS, and all other staff for their assistance.

I express my sincere gratitude to my senior Ms. Shreeparna Ghosh for her immense support during data entry stage. I feel loss of words to express my thanks to my seniors Dr. Neelanjana Pandey, Dr. Sujata Gangully, Mr. Kaushelendara Divedi Mr. Abhishek Kumar and Ms. Luckey Singh for their encouragement and valuable suggestions at different stages of this research work.

I cannot afford to forget the immense support, encouragement and the vital discussion made by my friend to nourish the study. I feel loose of words to express my thanks for my friends; Abba Pulu, Vipul Vaibhav Pandey, Arpita Das, Chandrashekhar, Bornali Dutta, Ranjan Prustry, Akankha Singh, Shivanand Chauhan, Itismita Pradhan, Nandan Kumar, Mayank Singh and Namrata Mondal.
I am very much grateful to my juniors Ms. Nidhi, Mr. Prahlad, Mr. Praveen, Mr. Gyan, Mr. Santosh, Ms. Ankita, Mr. Mayank Sharma, Ms. Khsipra, Ms. Pallavi, Mr. Rajan, Mr. Avadesh, Mr. Hanumat, Mr. Rakesh, Mr. Shubhranshu, Mr. Ajit, Mr. Ansul and Ms. Divya Dubey who helped me in numerous ways.

I cannot afford to forget the immense support received by Dr. T.B. Singh, Professor, Department of Community medicine, BHU, and Dr. Mithalesh Verma, District Level Households Survey IV, IIPS, providing actual name of the study area and investigators to conduct the interview for data collection.

I also express my heart full gratitude to the investigators who helped me in the field. To those innumerable others who made field work possible for me even in difficult circumstances, my gratitude knows no bounds. Eventually, the study was made possible due to the cooperation of those respondents who provided information on various aspects of their households. My sincere thank goes to those respondents who took lots of pain in providing the detailed information about several aspects of their life, I needed grateful to them.

It gives me great pleasure to express my feeling of gratitude to my parents. There are no words in the literature that I can use to acknowledge my gratefulness to them. Their blessings, unconditional love and emotional support throughout my academic carrier have been the constant source of strength behind all my endeavors. Their patience, confidence and faith in me, encouraged in the successful completion of this work. I bow me head at the feat of my parents.

Dated: Raj Narayan