ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I express my sincere and profound gratitude to my supervisor professor Murali Dhar Vemuri for his insightful and precious comments and suggestions during the presentation of this thesis. His patient and friendly supervision directed me the way to take out this study and without him it was not possible to complete my work. His clear scientific guidance, brilliant creative ideas, and constructive criticisms that has moulded and shaped me throughout the study. I consider myself fortunate to have him as my supervisor. I owe a debt to him for all these supports to which I will not able to pay back ever.

I also express my gratitude to all the faculty members of CSRĐ (population studies). Among the faculty members, Prof. Sudesh Nangia, Prof. Aslam Mahmood, Prof. PM Kulkurni, and Dr. Anuradha Banerjee are thankful for their training in diverse fields of Knowledge during the course work, which helped me to broaden the horizon of knowledge. The special thanks go to my seniors Dr. Lekhnath Bhattarai and Dr. Shova Kanta Lamichhane. At first, they encouragement to join in this university and helped me in many ways during their stay in JNU.

I acknowledge my debt to the University Grants Commission of Nepal (for initial two years) and University Grants Commission of India (JRF for the rest of the period of the study) for providing me Research Fellowship and to Tribhuvan University Nepal granting me leave to pursue my research. I extend my sincere thanks to UNFPA CST office for providing me the financial support for the field study. I also express my thanks to Dr. Bhanu Niraula (Assistant Country Representative, UNFPA-CST Office, and Kathmandu) for evaluating my research proposal and recommendation for financial assistance, without him it was not possible.

In Nepal, my special thanks go to people who assisted me to fieldwork in the difficult situation due to political and Maoist insurgency in the country. In the beginning, the survey was attempted to cover the western development region from
mountain, hill and terai but it was limited to three districts: Kaski, Tanahu and Syanjga of western hill of the region due to emergency in the country. Khagendra Poudel, Keshav Banstola and Kalidas Sharma are thankful for their help to construct GIS map of the study area. Likewise, I am indebted to Shovit Khadak who has supported me in many ways. In Kaski district, I received generous help from my colleagues Madhav Baral, Kul Prasad Dahal, Thaneskwor Subedi and Hom Bahadur Thapa for field survey. I also thank to Rajendra, who helped me in field survey in Syanjga district. I am also thankful to my fellows Surendra Giri (who always inspired me to be logical based on theoretical background), Chitra, Narayan, Govind, Uddhav, Indrai, Amresh, Deepak and Manisha, Hari, Mahesh, Dinesh, Devi, Bina, Yogendra, Rana, Mahendra and others who equally shared happiness and agony during my stay in JNU.

My special thanks go to my father in law Bishnu Bahadur Adhikari who helped me morally and physically. Without him, it was not possible to finalize the survey in Tanahu district during the difficult situation in the country. I also deserve my thanks to Kamal Adhikari who always helped me in many ways during my study. My nephews Dipendra and Kamal are also thankful for their bountiful assistance during the field survey. I am indebted to my parents who inspired me constantly to fulfill my goal. Since my childhood they taught me to be more rational. There is no word to express my feeling for my wife Sirjana who constantly helped me in each moment of my research work. At last but not least, this thesis is the results of cooperation and contributions of several people through a number of years and I am most grateful to all who have helped me in different ways and I am sorry if I could not mention all of you.

New Delhi  December 2006

Vikash Kumar K.C.