ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

It is a great pleasure and privilege for me to express thanks to those who have given precious help, support and guidance without which this work would not have got the present shape.

I am greatly indebted to my supervisor, Professor Jagdish Kumar Pundir, Department of Sociology (Formerly H.O.D.), Dr. Chetan Singh University, Meerut, for providing me constant support and scholarly guidance in successfully completing this thesis. He has always been a great source of inspiration and stimulation. I have received a liberal encouragement and support from him time to time.

I extend my thanks to all other faculty members Professor Y. Singh, Head, Mr. Y.P. Singh and Dr. Alok Kumar, Sr. Lecturers in the department for their constant support and encouragement.

Again I wish to express my special thanks to all the non-teaching staff of the department and M.S.W. Programme who supported me a lot while I was doing my research work.
I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the members of the University's Central Library who provided all possible help to me while collecting materials for research.

Special thanks to my campus seniors, Dr. Rajeev Chauuiali, Dr. Ravindra Kumar and Dr. Anil Saini who have gone through the entire draft and offered positive criticism and suggestions.

I gratefully acknowledge the assistance and support of my department seniors Smt. Anita Kushawa, Smt. Santosh, Dr. Sumati Devi, my classmates Pradeep Kumar, Parvinder Kumar, Sunder Nagar, Geeta, Reena, Hemlata Sharma and my department juniors Sama Parvin, Natrapal, Kamal Kant, Amit, Sonu, Himanshu, Anil Saini, Anuradha, Archna Saini, who were always encouraging and helpful with their views and information for the successfully accomplishment of my thesis. It would have not been possible without the unstinted support provided by them.

This being a research with intensive field work covering Dhismajra and Habibpur Navada villages of Haridwar District in Uttarakhand, the help
received from various officers of Bhagwanpur Block, District Head Quarter Offices and elected councillors were very valuable. Apart from them I have also been helped by the local people to a great extent. Village India in spite of changing circumstances still retains some of its traditional characteristics, particularly welcoming the visitors with love and affection. I would like to put on record the appreciation for all of them for their valuable help.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to my parents who constantly encouraged and provided the much needed moral support without which perhaps I would not have completed this thesis. My father, Sh. Surendra Singh Saini who always stands besides me, helped a lot during my research work as a guardian and as an instructor whenever the situation varied. My father in law, Sh. Babu Ram Sharma and mother in law, Smt. Kanta also supported me a lot during my research work. Also my brothers, Vinay Kumar, Jitendra Kumar and my sister, Reeta helped me during the collection of my facts as well as correction of the first proof of the thesis. I wish to express my sincere thanks to all my family members for their constant support and
encouragement for accomplishment of this study.

I am grateful to U.G.C. and Government of Uttarakhand for providing financial assistance and study leave to me for completing this work.

Last but not the least again I extend my special thanks to Mr. Y.P. Singh who helped me from time to time for the completing this form of the thesis.

Date: 28/01/2010

(Ravinder Kumar Saini)
PREFACE

The issue of social mobility is emotionally and ideologically loaded. Seemingly, everyone whether layman or sociologist has an opinion on the subject who he is not loathe putting into writing. The result is that social mobility has attracted more than its fair share of polemical and speculative writing while being shortchanged. In other words, opinions are plentiful, facts about social mobility are relatively scarce and hard to come by. It is, therefore, mainly in response to this latter need that the research reported in this study was first undertaken. The present study contributes, to a considerable extent, to the field of social mobility and analysis thereof in the context of a caste ‘Saini’ living in the socio-eco-cultural region of Uttarakhand.

The present study has been divided into seven chapters. The first chapter is introductory which includes rationale of problem, statement of the problem, terms/concepts, perspectives, area of study, universe/sample, methods of data collection and methods of data analysis. The second chapter deals with an overview of select literature on social mobility, its dimensions,
patterns, levels and factors. The third chapter takes note of historical background of 'Saini' caste which includes origin of the caste, living during zamindari period, their claim for Kshatriya verna, traditional occupation, etc. The forth chapter deals with the area of study in detail. Fifth chapter takes note of socio-economic background and social mobility among Saini in two villages in Haridwar district of Uttarakhand which include type of family, property, land ownership, education, occupation, age and occupation, impact of land reforms, political participation etc. The sixth chapter takes account of three specific case studies. The last chapter deals with summary and finding of the present study.