Acknowledgements

For me, it is difficult to express my informal feelings into formal words, though as a convention, I have to follow that. I owe a deep sense of gratitude my supervisor Prof. K. L. Sharma who provided me invaluable assistance during the course of my work. I am specially thankful for his keen interest with the topic and ample opportunities to explore and understand the theme. Despite, his other engagements, he always gave priority to my work even at odd hours.

I also express my sincere gratitude to my teachers of the Center for the Study of Social Systems (New Delhi) Prof. Yogendra Singh, Prof. J. S. Gandhi, Prof. Dipanker Gupta who sharpened my ideas and often advised. Especially, Prof. Singh who provided valuable suggestions throughout my research period.

This study would not have been possible without the support of many people and organisations. I am also thankful to the kind cooperation of office staffs of the Center for the Study of Social Systems, library staffs both JNU as well as Nehru Memorial Library (New Delhi). Many other institutions like, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs, Planning Commission, CAPART, PRIA, Development Alternative and Indian Social Institute, New Delhi, helped my study. Thus, I must express my thanks to the concerned persons.

The warm welcome and cooperative approach of Mewar society highly impressed and also encouraged me. I also express my debt to those NGO people (From leaders to village workers) who provided me detailed and comprehensive information both about their organization and the local, like Seva Mandir, Astha Sansthan, Jagran Jan Vikas Samiti,
World Vision of India and many others. A few of them, Mrs. Nilima Khetan (Seva Mandir), Shri Kishore Saint and Shri Jagdish (Ubeshwar Vikas Mandal), Shri Prafula Nagar and Shri S. S. Nandwana (Rajasthan Vidyapith), Shri Girija Shanker (Rajasthan Bal Vikas Samiti), Shri Gannesh Purohit (Ankur Sansthan), exhibited more concern to my study and showed their avid interest. Thus, I also express heartily thanks to them. In this endeavour, not only the NGO people but also other locals such as Dr. S. L. Sharma, Mr. Lalit Kumar Sharma and many villagers have given their priceless and timely support in my fieldwork.

It is with this enormous gratitude that I extend to friends and colleagues. Dr. M. K. Verma, Dr. Rajesh Sinha, Dr. H. Ansari, Dr. Bala Chandran, Jagdish, Arvind, Sailesh, Raza, Raju, Vidhan Pathak, Ashutosh, Dhru, Aditya, Haresh, Sricharan, Dharni Parida, Jagdish Chandra and Bharat Raj Meena. I also express my sincere gratitude to those people whose names have found no mention here owing to paucity of space.

I would not like to miss this chance to express my gratitude to members of my family who stood by me as moral support. Their continuous support provided me congenial atmosphere to pursue the Ph.D. The blessings of my elder brothers and love from younger kids are constant motivational force. Particularly, Abhishek (my nephew) who typed this script by compromising his game hours.

Lastly, I am also very grateful to ICSSR, New Delhi, for providing financial assistance to pursue my research work, in lack of which this study would not have been materialised.

(PRADEEP KUMAR)