Acknowledgement

The present work has been an outcome of the collective efforts which was, directly or indirectly, tendered by a group of individuals without whom this work could not be completed so successfully. Among those, first of all, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to my revered Supervisor, Prof. Devi Datt Chauniyal, Professor, Department of Geography, H.N.B. Garhwal University, Srinagar (Uttarakhand) for his constant advice, guidance and supportive attitude in completing the present work at all stages. I will remain ever indebted to him for enlightening my knowledge on the present topic which I feel one of the upcoming and need based modern day issue for the cause of environment and society of the mountain communities.

I wish my heartfelt gratitude and sincere appreciation to Dr. J.C. Kuniyal, Scientist-D, G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development (GBPIHED), Himachal Unit, Mohal-Kullu (H.P.) for his constructive suggestions and valuable guidance during the course of this study. Besides, I am heartily thankful to him for his keen interests in going through some of the important Chapters of the present Ph. D. dissertation. My work would not have been in the present shape without his kind support and encouragement.

I am deeply indebted to Dr. P.P. Dhayani, Scientist-F, GBPIHED, Kosi-Katarmal, Almora (Uttarakhand), Dr. Parasana K. Samal, Scientist-E, GBPIHED, North East Unit, Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh) and Dr. G.C.S. Negi, Scientist-D, GBPIHED, Kosi-Katarmal, Almora (Uttarakhand) for their time to time critical comments, suggestions and moral support during completion of the present work.

I am highly obliged to my respected teachers from Department of Geography, H.N.B. Garhwal University, Srinagar (Uttarakhand) for their constant moral support and encouragement. The most important among them are: Prof. D.D. Maithani, Head, Department of Geography, Prof. Kamlesh Kumar, Prof. R.S. Panwar, Prof. M.S.S. Rawat, Dr. M.S. Panwar, Dr. B.P. Naithani, Dr. M. S. Negi, Dr. L.P. Lakhera, Dr. Y. S. Negi and Dr. Y.S. Kaithat.

I sincerely express my gratitude to Dr. G. S. Rawat, Department of Geology, for concerning the related top sheets, Dr. A. K. Naithani and Dr. Y. P. Sundriyal, Department of Geology, for their fruitful corrections and inputs mainly in the chapters concerning with the geological aspects under the study. I am heartily thankful to Dr. O.P. Gausain, Department of Zoology, for providing laboratory facility and guidance in analyzing the water samples. I am also obliged and thankful to Dr. C.P.
Kuniyal, Scientist-B, HRDI, Gopeshwar, Chamoli (Uttarakhand) for going through some of chapters and other feedbacks received on some of the sections of the present work.

I am grateful to Dr. Ashok Badoni, Dr. (Miss.) Anupama Rawat, Dr. Ravindra K. Joshi, Dr. Karan Rawat, Dr. Somya K. Joshi, Dr. Arvind Bhatt, Er. Mahendra S. Lodhi, Dr. Sanjay Gairola, Dr. Ramesh C. Khandrudi, Mr. Harish C. Andola, Mr. Mukesh C. Pant, Mr. Rakesh K. Dumaka, Mr. Krishna S. Sajwan and Chotu for their time to time academic discussions on the subject which ultimately have been valuable in shaping the present work. Moreover, I am also thankful to my dear friends such as Mr. Mukesh K. Sharma, Mr. Chandan S. Negi, Mr. Maheswar Prasad and Mr. Darshan Singh for helping me in monitoring water discharge and conducting socio-economic survey.

I sincerely thank to my hostel mates from GBPIHED, Kosi-Katarmal, Almora (Uttarakhand) as well as from Trisul Birla Post Graduate and Research Hostel, Srinagar (Uttarakhand) for their regular moral support and encouragement.

I am lucky enough that I have always been full of inspirations and blessings from my respected Grandfather, Shri Parshu Ram Kuniyal. His blessings and inspirations I have realized during work mainly when many ups and downs I had to face during a course of this work. I express my deep sense of gratitude to him without which I have been served with food but no water. I am also indebted to my parents, whose inspirations, blessings and constant encouragement at every step of this work have been with me. I pay my heartfelt homage to my father, Late Shri Dhani Ram Kuniyal who had seen this dream for me that one day I should reach up to this stage of my career. Similar is the case of my mother, Smt. Hemanti Devi whose blessings have always been with me. I am very much thankful to my beloved mother for her great feelings to me which ultimately worked as the important inspirer in completing the present work. I have a pleasure to acknowledge the support and cooperation of my respected brother, Shri Anand Ballabh Kuniyal, who always spared me from the routine work of our joint family during the period of my work.

In the last but not least, I can not forget those villagers who have frequently been an incessant source of first hand information on certain related issues. I am also thankful to those who, directly or indirectly, support me in the field study.

May 26, 2008
Srinagar, Garhwal

(Hari Ballabh)
Research Scholar
Registration No.20956
Geo-Hydrological Laboratory
Department of Geography
H.N.B.G.U., Srinagar (Garhwal)