ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It is really difficult to express a deep sense of gratitude adequately by using words only. However, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to my esteemed, learned and illuminating supervisor Dr. Paramjit Singh Judge, Professor Department of Sociology, Guru Nanak Dev University Amritsar for his valuable guidance and constant encouragement. His depth of perception and vast experience in the area of my study helped me to boost my morale on many occasions working under his mostly guidance has been a boon rather than a privilege. From the core of my heart I am very thankful to my teacher Dr. (Mrs.) Gurpreet Bal, Professor Department of Sociology, Guru Nanak Dev University Amritsar who always attended me with motherly care during my research.

Words do not suffice to express finally my profound indebtedness and deep sense of gratitude to Dr. (Mrs.) Tejinder Kaur Dhaliwal, Principal of my college, Guru Nanak College for Girls, Sri Muktsar Sahib who encouraged and inspired me for my research and helped me for getting Teacher Fellowship. I also express my gratitude to the University Grants Commission, New Delhi for granting me Teacher Fellowship for my research.

It is my profound privilege to record my deep sense of gratitude to my teachers Prof. R.S Sandhu, Prof. Jasmeet Sandhu, Prof. M.S Gill, and Dr Manoj Kumar Badhwar who were always helpful to me during my research work.

I will remain forever indebted to my friend Mr. Bhupinder Singh Thakur, Research Assistant in the Centre for the study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy, GNDU Amritsar for his encouragement and help during the collection and processing of data for this study. He was also the first to read, whatever I write. Without his critical comments and intellectual help this work could not have seen the light of the day.

The staff of the department of sociology GNDU Amritsar, especially libertarians Mrs. Amarjit Kaur and Sr. Jatinder Singh who helped me in various ways especially for the collection of books and articles for my research I am really indebted to them. I am also very thankful to the other staff members Sr. Harpreet Singh Tuli, Mr. Shear Singh, and Jaspreet Singh for their kind assistance and support.
I am also indebted to the libraries of Panjab University Chandigarh, Punjabi University Patiala, and Guru Nanak Dev University Amritsar for allowing me to read the related materials for my research.

This thesis is dedicated to my father Sh. Geju Ram who spent 28 precious years of his life in the different countries of the Middle East for us as a construction worker. I will always remain indebted to my father and mother Smt. Surjit Kaur for their support, affection, co-operation and dedication to the family.

My heartiest thanks are due to my younger brothers Mr. Lakhvir Singh (UAE) and Mr. Baljit Singh (Australia) who have been a constant support in my study.

I am also indebted to my cousins Mr. Naresh Kumar (Sujjon), Mr. Pawan Kumar, Sarabjit Kaur and Gurpreet Kaur not only for their hospitality but also for their help and encouragement during my fieldwork.

I also deeply indebted to my sister Mrs. Deepti Sharma and her husband Sr. Surinder Singh and their little babies, Anshita Singh and Janav Veer Singh for their great love and affection for me. Especially two years old Janav, whose smiling face has always acted as catalyst. They provided me a homely environment in Amritsar which made my research smooth and easy.

I would like to put on record the support of certain special faces that helped me immensely by being compassionate, friendly and supportive. Specially my “Dera Friends” Mr. B.S Thakur, Dr Sumit Arora, Prof. Rupinderjit Singh Sandhu, Prof. Sukhwinder Singh Bhullar and our dearest Hilal Ahmad Dar. I express my gratitude to all of them.

I owe special thanks to my Nannu. She has always been supportive in my research. It is always a privilege to have somebody so close and helpful.

Last but not least I acknowledge the cooperation of my respondents and other persons in the field area. I am also thankful to the Computer Hut for formatting my thesis with great care, skill and dexterity.

Date: Bali Bahadur