ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my supervisor, Prof. Sanjay Sehgal for his invaluable suggestions, cooperation and encouragement at each stage of my work. His research acumen, consistent encouragement and personal involvement enabled me to accomplish this work on time.

I thank God for giving me the strength and will power, which helped me to work regularly.

I am grateful to Prof. C.P. Gupta for valuable suggestions to make the research more meaningful. I also thank the administrative staff at the Department-Mr. Dua, Mr. Sandeep and Mr. Sumit for their cooperation at various stages of the research work.

I thank my college principal, Dr. Jaswinder Singh and my colleagues from the Department of Economics for their support throughout the course of study.

I thank the library staff at University of Delhi, South Campus library and S.P. Jain Advanced Management Research Centre library, South Campus for providing relevant research material as well as congenial environment for study.

Thanks are due to the entire support staff at Thomson One (Thomson Reuters) for patiently solving my queries during the process of data collection. I also thank support team of CMIE Prowess for assistance with data collection.

I am deeply thankful to my sister and my respected parents who always inspired and motivated me in my work. The role of my parents is inexpressible as their love, affection, never ending motivation and selfless dedication throughout my life has helped me on the road to my ambitions. They were always there when I needed them the most. They are the one who put in me the fundamental learning character, showing me the joy of intellectual pursuit.

I sincerely thank my husband and my in-laws for being so patient and understanding. My husband’s wholehearted cooperation and support have played an important role in helping me to complete my dissertation. He offered valuable insights, important
technical support and revived my enthusiasm when it was sagging. I am indebted to him for his confidence in me and for being the driving force to aim high and to work towards achieving the same. Without his endless hard work and commitment, this project would not have been successful.

Thanks to my two children who have been patient during the entire study period and adjusted to various arrangements when they missed their mother including joining day care. I am indebted to them for their understanding of their mother’s long period of absence. They did not get angry when I did not give them adequate time as I was busy with my research work. Their physical and moral sacrifices play a valuable role in the successful completion of this work. My two children remain a continuous source of strength and support to me.

I again thank my parents who have always made sacrifices for my well being and taken full responsibility of my children when I was away studying. Their affection has always been the inspiration for me to be patient and to concentrate on my work during my tough periods.

I thank my family physicians for providing prompt medical attention and helping me maintain good health when I faced various medical complications during the study period.

I am thankful to my friends Monica, Bhawna, Sakshi, Kanu, Wasim and Siddharth who have all helped me in different ways during the course of my dissertation.

I thank all my friends and well wishers who have directly or indirectly helped me in the completion of this research.

I dedicate this research work to my parents.

_Srividya Subramaniam_