

## Acknowledgement

*Words can never suffice to repay the debt that I owe to all those who have helped me to complete this study.*

*I express my deep sense of gratitude to my supervisor Prof. M.J. Qureshi, who, with utmost patience went through my drafts giving critical comments and valuable suggestions his busy schedule. Being a hard taskmaster, he made me work so much that I learned numerous research techniques, which would have been not possible otherwise. His co operation and guidance made my work simpler. I also wish to keep on record the kind permission granted to me to complete the PG Diploma course in Remote Sensing and GIS from Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, Dehradun, and providing me a wonderful opportunity of learning, which I have used extensively in my research work.*

*I am very grateful to Dr. P.S. Roy, Dean, IIRS, for allowing me to use the infrastructural facilities at IIRS during my course work. Thanks are also due to Mr. B.S. Sokhi, Head, Human Settlement Analysis Group (HUSAG) for providing encouragement and guidance during the 10 months duration of the course at Dehradun. I am indebted to all other faculty of HUSAG and PRS for their help in learning the remote sensing photogrammetry and GIS.*

*I am deeply indebted to Dr. J.R. Sharma, Head, Regional Remote Sensing Service Center (RRSSC), Jodhpur, for providing me the necessary help in providing relevant data and allowing me to use infra structural facilities at the center. I am very much thankful to him for his constant encouragement and critical reviews on my research methodology and making my stay comfortable in Jodhpur. Thanks are also due to fellow scientists, Mr Pathak and Mr. Gaikwad guy, who helped me immensely in digital data analysis.*

*I am very much thankful to Dr. B.S. Yadav, soil scientist who has been very supportive in my field visits by providing me necessary tools.*

*I am also grateful for the kindness of the villagers who without knowing me well, not only facilitated me carrying out my field work so easily, but also provided me with food and refuge during the chilly winters of Rajasthan.*

*My thanks are due to Mr. O.P. Gaur (Rtd. Ex. En. CAD, Bikaner office) (uncle), who provided me helpful materials for my research work, and aunty who bestowed me with homely comforts.*

*I sincerely acknowledge the help provided by the CSRD faculty Prof. Aslam Mehmood, Prof. Milap Chand Sharma, Prof. R. K. Sharma and Prof. Atul Sood.*

*I sincerely appreciate the help offered by Ms. Sis kaur of SSS computer lab, Mr Vergese and Mr. Binod Doley for providing help in computation.*

*I am thankful to ICSSR for funding this research.*

*I am very thankful to my brothers, Onkar and Siddharth for bearing with me during my days of unending personal and research problems and utter confusions in the economics and statistical parts and computer related problems which they solved consistently. I could not do without the moral support and encouragement of my sister Snigdha, who was always there by my side. There are no words to express the sense of gratitude to my mother who has been the constant source of inspiration, and I would not have been able to produce this work without her blessings.*

*It is difficult to list the names of all, who, in more than one ways helped me during the research, but I will be failing in my duty if I do not mention the names of Uma, shweta, Priyanka, and Zubeida.*

*Lastly, I always found my friend anand by my side.*

*I thank the almighty who blessed me complete my task in time.*