AKNOWLEDGEMENT

An endeavor in any field needs inspiration, guidance, and moral support at every step. So I must preface my thesis by expressing sincere and deep gratitude to those who made it possible for me to complete my research work.

I feel immense pleasure to express my sincere gratitude and respect to Dr. (Mrs.) Paramjeet Nanda, Professor, Punjab School of Economics, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, for her loving care, expert advices, untiring efforts, constant encouragement and invaluable guidance throughout the conduct of this research work. Despite her additional academic commitments and other responsibilities, she spared her valuable time to solve my difficulties and this work is a reward of her blessings. I have learned a lot from her.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Prof. P.S. Raikhy, Senior faculty member of Punjab School of Economics, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, for constantly solving my conceptual problems and offering valuable suggestions at the various stages of the present study.

I also take this opportunity to thank non-teaching staff members of the School for their timely help.

I am also thankful to the staff of University Business School Library, Panjab University, Chandigarh, Bhai Gurdas Library, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, departmental library of Punjab School of Economics,
Institute of Economic growth library, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade library, Central Statistical Organization library, New Delhi, Department of Science and Technology, New Delhi and Delhi School of Economics, New Delhi.

I am also thankful to S. Sukhdev Singh and S. Sweinder Singh Programmer, Computer Centre, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, for help in analysis of data.

My humble gratitude must also be reserved for my father S. Manjit Singh and mother Mrs. Charan Kaur, sisters Dr. Ishpinder Kaur, Rupa and brother Sukhpal Singh, for their motivation and encouragement during my whole academic period. Above all, I am thankful to almighty God in completion of this research work.

Last but not least, I have a deep sense of appreciation towards all my friends and well wishers for their encouragement and interest in the progress of my work.

Dated: (Arvinder Kaur)