ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my indebtedness to my supervisor, Dr. Tulsiram, for his valuable guidance, suggestions, encouragement and advice at various stages of research and writing of the thesis. I would also like to express my sincere thanks to Prof. Zafar Imam, Prof. Suman Gupta, and Dr. Ajay Patnaik for their encouragement to complete the study.

I am grateful to the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) for granting a fellowship to complete my study.

I am also grateful to the two Afghan nationals, doing research in Jawaharlal Nehru University, who helped me through discussion and giving certain materials necessary for the study.

I am thankful to Thomas Mathew, Chandra Bhan Prasad, Vinod Sharma, Prakash Deo Singh, Sujith, Shaji, Babu, Chauhan, Amita, Mrs. Kameswari Viswanadham, Annie, Joseph, Dr. Tilak, Senu, Meenu, Varghese and many others who helped me in many ways during the completion of this thesis.

No words are enough to express my gratitude to my affectionate parents for their commitment to my education. The love and encouragement from my brothers and sister deserve mention.

Finally, my thanks go to my husband, Sugathan and daughters, Leenu and Anu who suffered and well-adjusted with all sorts of problems while I was engaged in this study.

None of the above bears any responsibility for the errors and omissions that may have appeared in this work. I am solely responsible for any such lapse.

USHA K.B.