Acknowledgements

The lonely journey of Ph.D. research is a learning experience which involved long road to walk, and considerable physiological and psychological exhaustion. The process could not be completed without impediments on the way, but there have been people who were directly or indirectly involved in this long journey and who provide me solace and encouragement time and again and kept me going. Without their love and support it would not have been possible for me to reach the final destination.

First, I would like to thank my research guide Prof. N. Jayaram who has been the chief pillar of support and guidance right from my pre-doctoral days and a constant source of inspiration to me. I do not have enough words to thank him for the meticulous reading of the several drafts of this thesis and correcting it line by line. I am grateful to him for pushing me to do my best, and whenever I felt de-motivated he was just a phone call away. Despite having a tremendously busy schedule, he was always there whenever I wanted to discuss something with him. I feel extremely fortunate that I have had Prof. Jayaram as my guide, and I am indebted to him for everything that he has done for me.

I would like to thank my Doctoral Advisory Committee Dr. Manish Jha and Dr. Gaurang Sahay for their valuable suggestions at different stage of my study. Thanks are also due to Shri Parthasarathi Mondal for doing a thorough job as the discussant at the seminar where I presented the synopsis of the thesis. I would like to place on record my gratitude to Prof. T.N Madan for his painstaking reading of my research proposal and giving valuable suggestions, and also for the courtesy of replying to my mails and answering my phone calls for seeking clarification. I was fortunate to meet him in Kashmir and have elaborate discussion with him.

I would like to thank Prof. Jayaram Panda for his support during my student days at the University of Jammu. I am really grateful to Prof Abha Chauhan who has time and again gone out of her way to help me and been so supportive and wonderful.

I thank the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, for providing me with the ‘Young Researcher Grant’ for facilitating fieldwork in Jammu and Kashmir.

Conducting a study in Kashmir was not easy. It would have been almost impossible without the help of some wonderful people over there. I thank Prof. Bashir Ahemad Dabla for encouraging me and helping me during my fieldwork. Prof. Ashraf Wani’s insightful observations and guidance helped me to conduct my interviews with the people of different ages. I thank Shazia Wani for accompanying me during my fieldwork in Ganderbal; without her help it would have been very difficult for me to complete my fieldwork. I thank Jasmine, Shazada and Indu Sharma for providing me homely atmosphere during my stay in Srinagar. My special thanks to Mehnaz for helping me during my data collection and for helping me locate the participants in
Srinagar. I would like to thank Shabnum, her Ammy, Abba, and sister to make me so comfortable in their home. Thank you so much for all your care and affection.

I would like to thank ‘Borderless World Organization’, Addik Kadam, and Akanksha Koul for providing me accommodation in their ‘Orphanage Home’ during my stay in the village Peth Bough in Anantnag district. I would like to thank to Abdul Aziz, who was the caretaker of the orphanage and his wife. I fondly recollect the time that I have spent with the children in that “Home”. I thank Razia and Nilofar for their sisterly affection towards me.

I thank ten-year-old Nitin Koul who was like a young guide to me during my visits to Kashmiri Pandits’ migrant camps in Jammu. He was too young to understand why I was talking to Kashmiri Pandits about Kashmir that too in an elaborate manner but he was continuously with me by helping me to reach my participants. My special thanks to Seema and her husband Suresh for helping me during my data collection in Delhi.

A special thank to my dear husband Kapil and my mother-in-law Vijaya for their understanding and continuous support that sustains me during the toughest of times.

My strength are my parents; I look up to them, and I thank them for standing by me always. My affectionate regards to my younger brother Sudhama who is like both child and a parent to me. My Ph.D. journey started because of his support and confidence in me. I cannot express my gratitude to him in words. I thank Sumedha babhi, who is the youngest and new member of the family. I specially thank to Sudhir papu for reading the drafts of my chapters and correcting my grammatical mistakes.

My thank are due to following friends at Tiss: Anirban, Chandrani, Rama, Sayantani, Susan, Vaidegi, Nandni, Suzan, Surbhi, Rincy, Chitra, Arpita, Manjari and Tara. Special thanks are due to my sister Shagun Saklani and Soloni Sharma who have been tremendously supportive in many ways during the process of my thesis writing. I would like to thank Tina and Srishti for reading through my thesis.

Most important this, I thank from the bottom of my heart all the participants for their hospitality and caring attitude towards me. Without their co-operation it would have not been possible for me to carry out this research work: thanks for all the hot Munj and Haak saag and rice and kheer/noon-chai in those chilly winter days. Thank you all for your love, support, and for sparing your valuable time for me. I also want to thank those unknown people whom I met in local buses and on the road during my stay in Kashmir, who helped me, and showed me right directions to reach my destinations.

Kamlesh Bamotra