ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The present study is the outcome of the interaction of a number of intellectual minds. Knowingly and unknowingly, many people have contributed towards the completion of this study. Therefore, I earnestly thank all those who have helped me in the pursuit of my research.

The present research work has reached its zenith with the constant help and encouragement from many people. First and foremost, with great pleasure and reverence, I express my deep sense of gratitude to my supervisor Prof. Mohammad Izhar Hassan, Department of Geography, Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak, for his valuable guidance. His indefatigable zeal was a source of constant inspiration. His painstaking supervision and inspiring discussion have left an indelible imprint on my doctoral work. It has been indeed an extreme privilege, and one of the most rewarding experiences of my life, to have been associated with a person of his calibre.

My sincere thanks are also due to the other faculty members of the department namely Dr. Nina Singh, Dr. S.K. Bansal, Dr. Binu Sangwan, Dr. Sachinder Singh and Dr. K.V. Chamar, Dr. Inderjeet, Dr. R. S. Sangwaan, Dr. Mehtab Singh, Dr. Parmod Bhardwaj, Ms. Renu Arya and Mr. Naresh Malik for their kind co-operation during the study period.

I am also thankful to the non-teaching members of staff especially Mr. Shukar Dev, the Laboratory Attendant and Mr. Rajkumar, the clerk of the Department for their generous help extended directly and indirectly from time to time. I would also like to put on record my deep sense of appreciation for cooperation rendered by members of staff in the libraries of M. D. University, Rohtak, and Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

I have immensely benefited from my discussion with Prof. Saraswati Raju, Centre for the Study of Regional Development, JNU, New Delhi. I am extremely thankful to her. My interactions from time to time with Dr. Pritirekha Daspattanayak, Revenshaw University, Cuttack, have also been a great source of strength and inspiration for me to complete the work on time. My heartfelt thanks are due to her.

I would also like to express my indebtedness to my elder brother Mr. Kuldeep Malik, Assistant Professor, Pt. Neki Ram Government College, Rohtak, for the pains he took during the course of my study. I am also extremely thankful to my Archna Bhabhi from the bottom of my heart for her constant help and support. No words can adequately express my gratitude to my family. I am beholden to my in-laws and parents for their encouragement and blessings. I am especially indebted to my husband Mr. Manoj Kadian.
sub-inspector in Haryana Police, who has been a great sense of inspiration in my academic endeavour. His steadfast support and endurance have helped me immensely. I convey my affection to my younger sisters Sangeeta and Kavita and my brother Vedraj Dahiya. I am also heartily thankful to our Chota, Ravinder Kadian, my sweet brother in-law.

My special thanks are reserved for my friends Sneh, Renu Duhan, Mukesh, Vinay, and all other juniors and seniors especially Tonny sir, Jogi Sir, Bijender Sir and Sunil Sir. Last but not the least, Mr. Raj Kumar Pahwa M/S S.S. Computer Centre, deserves deep appreciation for accomplishing the job well on time. Appreciation is also due to all those friends and relatives who remained my strength throughout and made it possible for me to complete this research work.

Finally, I bow and thank God Almighty for all that He has given to me.

Ms Savita Rani