ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Life is a long journey, full of many achievements and aimed goals. To do any big job, one requires motivation, inspiration, and co-operation of many hands. And doing research for Ph.D. is a challenge, on intricate and delicate task. Today when I came to this culmination, I think of many words and many hands that forced me to move forward and helped me to learn many precious and innovative experiences of life. I would here like to express my thanks to the people who have been very helpful to me during the time it took me to write this thesis.

Words can not express the depth of gratitude that I feel for my research supervisor Dr. Ashok Mittal, Professor & Chairman, Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, for his inspiring guidance, unfailing succour that led to the successful completion of this arduous work. He not only guided in this particular work but also taught me how to proceed in a research project and organise the entire research work in a scientific and systematic manner. He always showed me the right path at the right time. No matter how depressed or down I felt, he always enlightened my sprit to work even harder. I shall remain highly obliged to him.

It is a privilege to express deep sense of gratitude to Dr. H.K. Amar Nath, Senior Economist, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP), New Delhi, for his planning, support, helpfulness, dedication, and providing a very comfortable and suitable environment to complete the work, in spite of his tight time schedule. I have been very fortunate for getting the opportunity to work and learn under his supervision. Without his encouragement and constant guidance, I could not have finished this thesis.

It is also a privilege to express deep sense of gratitude to Dr. Pinaki Chakraborti, Senior Fellow, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi, for his valuable comments and suggestion in the first draft of the thesis. I shall remain grateful to him for devoting time from his busy schedule.

I am also grateful to Dr. Pulin B. Nayak, Professor, Delhi School of Economics, Delhi University, Delhi, for his valuable comments on the final draft of the thesis.

I express profound sense of gratefulness to Dr. Gautam Naresh, Senior Economist (Retired), National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi, for his invaluable suggestions and earnest enthusiasm during the work.
I feel immense pleasure to express my thanks to Mr. Naveen Singh, EDP Manager, Mr. S. Shiva Chidambram, Librarian, and Staff of Library of NIPFP, New Delhi for their help and support.

It is a pleasure to acknowledge the encouragement given by the learned faculty of the Department of Economics, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh. For this, I am especially thankful to Prof. (Mrs.) Nighat Ahmad, Dr. Shehroz Alam Rizvi, Dr. M. Saeed Khan, Dr. Mohd. Azam, and Mr. A. Mannan Siddiqui.

I am thankful to administrative staff of the Department of Economics, AMU, specially Mr. Buniyad Ali Khan (Librarian) and Mr. Aquil Ahmad (Section In-charge), for their cooperation and support as and when required.

I would also like to acknowledge my friends Dr. Pratibha, Meenakshi, Nivedita, Vikas, and Shailendra for their constant motivation.

My words fail when emotions erupt. This work would not have been completed without the emotional support and blessings of my mother Ms. Veena Mehrotra and my brother Mr. Anand Mehrotra.

The person who is the principal motivational force behind this work, to my misfortune, is no longer with me to see for himself its completion and share the joy. He is my father Late Sh. J.S. Mehrotra who would have been surely the happiest person. His blessings will continue to guide me in my career endeavour.

I am also thankful to my Maternal Uncle-Aunty Mr. Naveen Mehra and Ms. Sadhna Mehra, my Sisters Ms. Reema Arora, Ms. Savita Mehrotra, Brother-in-laws Mr. Rahul Arora, Mr. Kamal Kant and their lovely kids who missed me a lot and felt pain when they have not seen me for a long time though I was staying in Delhi.

My stay at Padma Bhandari Working Women Hostel, R.K. Puram, New Delhi during my study period, was made memorable by warden Ms. Rashmi Sikka and my dear friends and roommates Gunjan, Rupa and other hostel mates Meena, Sarvani and Hertej. I express a word of sincere thanks to them for their valuable support during the entire work.

Seema Mehrotra