Acknowledgement

It is one of the most exacting task to acknowledge all that one owes to one’s benefactors, teachers, parents, friends and well wishers. The following words attempt to express my deep sense of gratitude to all those who have been especially helpful during working out this thesis.

My supervisor of this thesis, Prof. M. Jamal, Siddiqui, Department of Sociology and Social Work, A.M.U. Aligarh, has been great source of intellectual inspiration and moral support, his profound scholarship, his multidisciplinary vision have been deeply impacting my academic endeavors during my research programme. The present thesis is a function of his unflinching support and guidance. I owe great debt and I feel immense pleasure and privilege to express my deep sense of gratitude to my supervisor from the deep core of my heart.

I owe great debt and I express deep sense of gratitude to Mrs Rashida Rana Siddiqui (Retired) Reader in the Department of Sociology and Social Work, A.M.U. Aligarh. She has encouraged and helped a lot during my study.

I express my profound sense of gratitude to Prof. Noor Muhammad chairman in the Department of Sociology and social work A.M.U. Aligarh, for his help and encouragement.

I express my sincere gratitude to Dr. S. Zainuddin, Dr. Nemat Ali Khan, Dr. P.K. Mathur, Dr. Abdul Wahid, Dr. Abdul Matin, Dr. Shireen Sadique and other staff of the department I am also very thankful to my colleagues Prim Rose and Farha for their Valuable Support.

I must be obliged to my family and friends, especially my father and mother, Janab Ishrat Hussian Khan, Mrs. Mahjabe Khanam. My Uncle Sharafat Hussain Khan, Abrar

I am highly obliged to my friends, Rehan Beg, Anas Farooqui, I can not forget the help and support from my beloved friend Gulrana Khwaja she has been a constant source of moral support and grate care during my research work, thanks are also due to Sumaiya Sabeek and Shahina Mustafa, Nazia Iqbal for their help and encouragement during tough phase of study.

Last but not the least I extend my sincere thanks to the library staff of Maulana Azad Library Aligarh Muslim University. Aligarh, Jawahar Lal Nehru University Delhi, Delhi University Delhi, Jamia Millia Islamia University Delhi, Institute of objective studies, New Delhi, without their active co-operation of these personnel I had perhaps not been possible to collect the voluminous data utilized in the thesis.

Thanks are also due to Pihan development block officials

In last I express my gratitude to Janab. A.K. Azad (Computer Professional) who took pain in computer typing of this thesis with care.

(Azra Khanam)