ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I take this opportunity to express my deep and sincere thankfulness to Dr. (Mrs.) Shadbano Ahmed, Department of Sociology, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, who supervised this study. But for her inspiring guidance, unfailing encouragement, generous help and co-operation this thesis would not have been completed. I owe deepest gratitude and everlasting obligation to her which I could not express in words. I am indebted to Prof. Noor Mohammad, Chairman, Department of Sociology, A.M.U., Aligarh, for his help.

I must express my grateful thanks to Prof. Sultan Akhtar and Dr. Qamer Hasan, Department of Psychology, A.M.U., for their invaluable advice and help. I am thankful to the Director, Lady Irwin College, New Delhi; Librarian and other staff of the Maulana Azad Library, A.M.U.; University Library, Kerala; and Public Library, Trivandrum, for providing all library facilities. I am also thankful to Mr. Shahid Rizvi, Seminary Library, Department of Sociology, A.M.U., and Mrs. Sajida Zaidi, Library, Women's Polytechnic, A.M.U.
I acknowledge with gratitude the co-operation extended by the respondents and informants who willingly and sincerely responded to my innumerable questions. But for their whole-hearted cooperation, it would not have been possible to compile the data for this thesis. In the end, I must thank Mr. Mir Ghouse Mohideen for his meticulous and careful typing of this thesis.

(LALAMMA KOSHY)