ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I express my sincere gratitude to my guide, Dr. (Miss) Nalini Ogale, Professor of Home Management, for her invaluable guidance, constructive suggestions and continuous encouragement throughout the period of study.

Thanks are extended to Dr. (Mrs.) R. George, Professor and Head of the Department of Home Management for her co-operation during the course of study.

I am grateful to Dr. V. Gandodtra, Reader, Department of Home Management, Faculty of Home Science, M. S. University of Baroda, for providing helpful advice and constant encouragement.

Thankful appreciations are extended to Dr. (Mrs) A. U. Nanavati, Reader, Department of Economics, M. S. University of Baroda, for her help and expertise in analysis of data. Appreciations are also extended to Dr. V. A. Kalamkar, Lecturer, in Statistics Department, M. S. University of Baroda, for his useful suggestions in statistical analysis of data.

My thanks are due to Mr. Nar Singh, Block development officer, 'Bharmour', for extending complete co-operation in data collection. I am grateful to Miss Kamlesh Sharma 'Gram Sevika' 'Bharmour', for assisting me in maintaining rapport with the villagers and respondents. Sincere thanks are due to the respondents for extending their co-operation in data collection.
I am grateful to the administration of H. P. Krishi Vishav Vidalaya for granting sufficient study leave to pursue the Doctoral Programme. I extend my thanks to Mr. Prashant Vasant for typing the thesis with keen interest and great care.

Thanks and appreciation is offered to all family members, colleagues and friends for sparing time and providing opportunities to complete my work. A special note of thanks is extended to my mother and parents-in-law for the encouragement, moral support and untiring help provided by them in completion of this investigation. I extend my thanks to Mrs. Santosh Tikkoo for her support during the period of study.

I owe my sincere regards and loving thanks to my husband, Dr. R. S. Kishtwaria, for his inspiration, ever willing help and moral support throughout this period of study. Special and affectionate thanks are extended to my sons Angad and Arjun for bearing my absence at a tender age which has been invaluable for the study.

JATINDER