Economists believe and say that India is a rich country inhabited by the poor. On this fact, after the achievement of freedom, the national Government tried its best to enhance the production and to bring radical changes in all spheres of national life. With this consideration Indian Constitution was framed in the light of broad policies of Socialism.

Unfortunately after twenty years of freedom, the real spirit of socialism has not yet been achieved, and generally the people who get fixed salaries are mostly suffering a lot of miseries irrespective of their caste and creed. The low income group of people has still more problems to solve.

Aligarh Muslim University is a renowned seat of learning in India. It has able and well-staffed, magnificent buildings, modern educational facilities and the well-equipped laboratories, valuable furnitures and other material which speak of great pomp and show. The well established libraries, hostels and bungalows etc add more glory to the University.

But, in spite of all this glory there is also a section of people, in the same University, which belong to the lowest social and economic stratum, who serve the people who are expected to go at the highest level of this career.

This lean and thin figure of a bearer, can be seen in every hostel of the University, laden with meal and breakfast boxes. He is known by the popular name of 'HOSTEL BEARER', with drooping face, exhausted body and broken heart. He is there to serve every body and every time of the day, and night.

During my student life at Aligarh, I thought and thought that the work of the bearer is fairly strenuous and required great stamina, honesty, modesty and sincerity to work. They have considerable part to play in the
cultural, social and to some extent in the economic sphere of hostel life, which generally have great importance at Aligarh.

Hostel bearers of Aligarh, present a subject for detailed socio-economic study in as much as they unveil the picture of India as it is below the thing Veneer of the prosperity of a large number of the people at the top, a picture of utmost ugliness and human decay with all the conception of "Welfare State".

The present thesis is an attempt to present a modest picture of social and economic life of the hostel bearers in Aligarh University. My object in undertaking the investigation detailed in this thesis is, if possible, to throw light upon the conditions which govern the life of the bearer, specially their economic and social problems, under which they spent their childhood and their life governed by their conditions. It has been our endeavour to bring out the socio-economic conditions and related implications like ambitions, martial status, consumption pattern, health and hobbies. Wherever it was feasible I have also tried to make diagrams, charts and pasted photographs to make the point more clear. Aligarh was chosen for this purpose on the assumption that the socio-economic conditions here, would reflect a true picture of generally prevalent conditions of bearers elsewhere, because the Aligarh Muslim University being a biggest residential institution, has also got the largest number of bearers. Thus this study is rather interesting and appears to have some distinctive features. These bearers generally have not their houses and the surroundings where they live, are mostly unhygienic and hardly suitable for human habitations. Similarly the food they eat, the clothes they wear and the conditions in which they live, speak of their untold miseries. All these problems are studied, after closely mixing with them for a considerable period, and I have tried to put my knowledge and experience, after investigation in the form of words on the papers of this thesis.
In the end, I desire to thank those who have helped me in the collection of information and guidance. The collection of data would have been impossible for me without the active cooperation and help of the bearers who were directed, in some cases, by the Hall Provosts, Wardens and Senior Hall Monitors, to help me. I am very much thankful for their cooperation in my endeavour. I have also to thank my those class mates and respected members of the staff who assisted me at one time or another. On various occasions, Mrs. Prof. Shabbir Hasan Khan has been a source of constant encouragement and guidance to me for which I must gratefully tender my profound thanks to her.