Acknowledgments

I would like to express my special appreciation and thanks to my research guide Dr. Malati Roy. Dr. Roy, You have been a tremendous mentor for me. There were times when I thought I would never make it but your encouragements and mentoring made me pull harder and today, I can reap the fruits. I would like to thank you for intelligently guiding my research and for allowing me to grow as a research scientist. Your advice on both research as well as on my career have been priceless.

I would also like to thank my Head of Economics Department, Dr. Praveen Jadhav, who, as my first guide, started this journey for me and who has be of tremendous support throughout my study. Sir, you are one of the best teachers and extra ordinary human I have met in life. I am a better person today due to your support. I also would like to thank my teacher Dr. Jyoti Patil who was more than a teacher to me. Madam, you were my friend, my mentor, and a mother figure in this foreign country. You made me fall in love with Economics. The world needs teachers like you.

I would also like to thank Mr. Albert Maake who was my close friends in India and who was always there to give me advice on this study. Thank you Albert for spending sleepless nights and long days going through my thesis, putting your thoughts to it and giving valuable suggestions. The same goes to Mr. Charles Nyaranga and Dr. Kinitoli Yeptho who gave me the first light to embark on this journey.

A special thanks to my family for their support and love all the years I have been in India. Thank you mom Rebecca, dad Joel, sisters: Rachel Kawira, Dorcas Mukami, Miriam Wanja; brother Samuel Kirimi, brothers-in-law Richard and Alfred, all my nieces and
nephews and the rest of the family for always being there for you even when I was so far away from family and responsibilities. Words cannot express how grateful I am for all of the sacrifices that you’ve made on my behalf. Your prayer for me was what sustained me thus far. I will always love you and appreciate.

In special way, let me also thank the family of Mr. D.R. Parihar. Words will never express how grateful I am to Mr. Parihar and family who were my family in India and who supported me in the most difficult times of my study both materially and with ideas. This could never have been achieved without your support.

I would also like to thank all of my friends who supported me in writing, and encouraged me to strive towards my goal. There are many other I may not have mentioned due to my limited memory capability at this moment but always remember I appreciate each little or big gesture you showed me in the course of my study.

Lastly, I would like express appreciation to my best friend Miss. Halley Parihar who spent sleepless nights helping me with my data collection, thesis formatting etc and was always my support in the moments when there was no one to answer my innermost queries.

Nyaga Nathan Gitonga
February 2015