ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I feel highly indebted to my esteemed and revered supervisor Dr. Amarjit Mahajan, Professor, Department of Sociology, Panjab University, Chandigarh who helped me in completing this research project. It is all due to his effective and able supervision, constant guidance, constructive suggestions and valuable criticism that the standard and quality of the thesis could be improved. It was a matter of great privilege to work under a profound scholar, brilliant researcher and encouraging supervisor like him.

I express my sincere gratitude towards Dr. K.L. Sharma, Professor and Chairman, Department of Sociology, Panjab University, Chandigarh for providing all the facilities and a helping hand from time to time. I am also highly indebted to Professor P.N. Pimpley and Dr. K.C. Kaistha for their affectionate words, encouragement and consultations at all times.

I wish to put on record my sincere gratitude to the officials of the Mandi Municipal Committee and other local organizations who provided me all the required information. I am also indebted to the Namdhari Guru, the territorial head, Caste Panchayat and other Namdhari organizations at Mandi for their kind co-operation. The prominent Namdharis especially
Dr. Jai Inder Pal and Shri Narinder Singh, helped me a lot in my research work to whom I express my sincere thanks.

My parents helped me in a number of ways and I owe my sincere gratitude to them. It is with their blessings and affection that I have succeeded in this venture. My wife Vandana also deserves special thanks for her support in all respects.

I gratefully acknowledge the co-operation of all my friends especially Mr. Arvind Kapoor and Mr. Surinder Singh Jodhaka. Mr. Narvir Chandel, Mr. Kamal Kant helped me in editing the thesis to whom I also express my sincere thanks.

At last, I thank all my Namdhari and local respondents who could spare their valuable time to furnish the detailed data needed for the study.

CHANDIGARH

OCTOBER, 1990.

ARVIND SEHGAL