ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Inequality between men and women is one of the most crucial disparities in many societies; and this is particularly so in India. The injustice that results from the division of labour between the sexes affects virtually all women in our society, though in different ways. As a pervasive social problem, it is inflicting serious damage on women. It also liquidates the potential of the family to be the crucial first school where children develop a sense of fairness. This research project is about that injustice and its detrimental repercussions.

I, like many others, who came to reflect on women’s questions in the 1970s-80s, have worried about what our primary focus should be. My direct experience of the difficulties of being a fully participating wife, and rearing a daughter, while being a willing and dedicated teacher of my college has reinforced my student day views that considerable reforms are essential if women are to be treated justly and to have anywhere near their fair share of influence on politics and society. And my continuing study as a student/teacher of political philosophy has made me increasingly aware that major contemporary theorists of justice are not doing much better at confronting the issues of justice and gender than did the theorists of the past. All these factors inspired me to think and write about gender justice.

I, must, first of all, express my deep gratitude to my Supervisor, Prof. (Dr) Bhuvan Chandel, Director, Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Rashtrapati Nivas Shimla and Dean, Faculty of Arts, Panjab University, Chandigarh, who not only motivated me to do my doctoral research but also spurred me on, helping all through to dust away the uncertainties and doubts settled in my mind through the years. It was her encouragement that gave me the strength to wade through original works I have one way or the other, used in my thesis. If my work proves to be authentic, I have her to thank for enthusing me to take up this uphill task and also for providing me with study materia: at every step. I want to thank her the most for giving me the freedom to say what I ex: ctly feel about the subject of my research.
I am very gratefully beholden to Prof. Pam Rajput, my supervisor, Professor of Political Science and Director, Centre for Women’s Studies and Development, Panjab University, Chandigarh for the above thesis for having given me all possible help, encouragement and inspiration to pursue the above research work. She has helped me in not only providing the material through books and journals, but has enabled me to proceed conceptually in designing my research proposal.

I must also thank Sujata Thakur, lecturer in English, who often came to my help when I was rummaging my mind for the right word or phrases to express my innermost thoughts. And when I was in doubt about some conclusions I had reached, I turned to her for reassurance.

Throughout my deep association with the department of philosophy, ever since I was a student of the post graduate level, (at the M.A and M.phil level) I have been fortunate enough to get the affection and good will of all the teachers down the years.

Last but not the least, I must thank my little one, Chahat, who has been with me all through this tough period, literally helping me with my work-she has been taking out prints of my work, page by page as and when I required them. With her around, work never was a drudgery. It was joy.

(RAJ BALA)