Acknowledgement

Thanks to God for granting me the chance and the ability to successfully complete this study, may His peace and blessings be upon all his children.

First of all I thank almighty for giving me the opportunity to complete this work. I am lacking words when I had to write about the people who helped me during the course of my work. There are no words which can express my feeling of gratitude and debt towards my mentor, esteemed supervisor and eminent Professor B.G. Banerjee, Department of Anthropology, Panjab University, Chandigarh who was always there to listen and to give advice. He taught me how to work hard and solve my problems. His valuable guidance at every step during the course of this work had shown me the way to accomplish my goal and turn this piece of work in a present shape. His contribution is invaluable and wordless.

I also owe debt of gratitude to Professor A.K. Sinha, my co-supervisor, Department of Anthropology, Panjab University, Chandigarh for being always there to answer my queries and helping me in every step. He had been of great support to me. He had always lent me his helping hand by being patient with me and without ever saying no for any kind of help.

I acknowledge my deep indebtness and special thanks to Professor (Mrs.) Indu Talwar, Chairperson, Department of Anthropology, Panjab University, Chandigarh, for her proficient guidance and timely help and providing necessary facilities during the course of my work.

I express my thanks to all the staff of the Department of Anthropology, Panjab University, Chandigarh, for their help and generous support.

I could not have been able to finish this work without the wholehearted support and help I got from academics, doctors, journalists, administrators and most important people of Sri Hargobind pur, Punjab during my fieldwork. My respondents who shared their personal lives and experiences which enabled me to explore the realities of society, their contribution towards my work is invaluable. Their views and life experiences had strengthened my work.

I would also like to thank my friends, Pushpinder, Achala, Gurinder and Chakarborty for their timely help, valuable suggestions and support. My special thanks to my friend Loveleen without whom I would not have been able to reach my
goal, her unconditional hand of support and help in completing my work is beyond
words to express.

My special thanks to my parents-in-law, my sister-in-law and brother-in-law
for their unconditional support and cheerfully sharing what it takes to do such a task
from the bottom of my heart.

Finally I would like to mention about three important people of my life
because of whom I am what I am now, my father, my mother and my husband. My
father who inculcated this dream for me. He is the man behind my success. My mother
whose sacrifices had enabled me to shape up my life. My parents’ eternal blessings
had always shown me the right path to walk. They have given me the life at first place,
taught me about life and how to become an honest and good human being. They stood
by me in times of need and suffered the ups and down for me. Their unconditional
support and encouragement to pursue my interests even when the interests went
beyond boundaries.

My husband who has been as a rock behind me. His belief in my abilities had
always been a pillar of strength for me. He was always there when I doubted myself
and brought out the good ideas in me. His tender love and care had enabled me to
come out of frustrations and stress I faced during the course of this work. Thanks for
being there for me in time of need and lending me your shoulder of support.

Chandigarh  Kanchan Chandan
Date