ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It is with a profound sense of humility that gratefully acknowledge the stimulating guidance, proficient supervision and invaluable help extended to me by my esteemed teacher, mentor and supervisor, Professor Gopal Krishan, Professor Emeritus, Panjab University, Chandigarh. From beginning to its culmination, my entire thesis is indebted to his innovative thinking.

I am grateful to Professor Surya Kant, former Chairperson, Department of Geography, Panjab University, for allowing me the use of the research facilities in the Department. Long discussions with him were most useful in examining new ideas. Encouraging compliments by Professor Smita Bhatani, Dr. Krishna Mohan, Reader and Chairperson, and Dr. Ravinder Kaur, Senior Lecturer, Department of Geography, Panjab University supported me through my hardship. Non teaching staff of the department of Geography also supported throughout the research period. Professor Naib Singh, Government College of Education, Malerkotla and Sh. Kuldeep Singh, S. T. P., Ludhiana, stood by me during my difficult time. The encouragement by Dr. Jagtar Singh, Income Tax Commissioner, Mumbai, Dr. Amar Singh and Prof. Harbans held me steady on my course.

I owe a deep debt of gratitude to Dr. A. L. Gauha, Principal, Prof. Manjit Kaur Brar, Vice Principal, and Prof. Ravinder Kaur Sekhon, H. O. D, Department of Geography, Government College, Sector-11, Chandigarh, for their constant encouragement. Prof. K. P. S. Shante, Prof. S. P. Sukhija and Dr. Rajesh Sharma were instrumental in helping me obtain a high quality in my work, I am indebted to them and to my workplace, especially for its motto, "Higher and still higher" that constantly provoked me to put in my best.

My friends Sandeep, Ravneet, Raman, Rakesh and Damudor were constantly by my side during the finalization phase while Virender, Ranjit and Amit lent unstinting help when required. Bandana, whose good wishes were overwhelming alongwith Bhawna, Bogale and Senbeite blessed the project along.

A. C. Joshi Library and department library helped a lot in searching, refining, rewriting and researching the entire text of the dissertation. I acknowledge with profound memories, the accommodations provided by M. R. Sahni Hall and Lala Lajpat Rai Hall during the stay in my Alma mater.

Chandigarh, Dehradun, Delhi, Shimla, and my hometown, Hoshiarpur, gave the aura of empirical research to my work. I worked on the maps while sitting in Chandigarh’s Botanical Garden and was helped along the mapping contours by Sandeep, Raman and...
Mohan Singh. Dr. Rajni Lamba very carefully accomplished the task of editing the final draft of the thesis.

I would like to mention here that one of the drafts of this thesis traveled from the developing (India) to the developed (USA) world and blended with the spatiality of different places. In a way, it reflected the variance of glaring disparities in the truest sense and assimilated the poverty and affluences of both the worlds.

I am thankful to the University Grants Commission, New Delhi, for granting the fellowship for my Doctoral research.

My heart fills with gratitude for my loving family who sustained me through the entire process of research and research. It was a phenomenon of growth, maturation and development through which my parents (Prof. Baldev Singh Vig, Retired, and Smt. Baljeet Kaur) and brothers (Dr. Amarjeet Singh along with Dr. Kamaljeet Kaur and Dr. Prabhjot Singh along with Dr. Rupneet Kaur) and sisters (Prof. Prabhkirn Kaur along with Prof. Sukhwinder Singh and Adhbut Kiran Kaur along with S. Harjinder Singh) carried me in their hearts and virtually on their shoulders.

I bow in humble obeisance before Almighty God for granting me this opportunity and blessing me with the wherewithal to rise to it.

20.1.2009.

Ripu Daman Singh Vig