ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The PhD writing process is a journey, which takes many years to complete. During this exciting and stimulating, but at times exhausting and difficult journey, I have been accompanied and supported by many people. It is a pleasant aspect that I have now the opportunity to express my gratitude for all of them.

With gratitude and respect, I owe this journey of my thesis to my teacher and guide Dr. Naveen Sharma. I am extremely grateful to him for his exceptional and versatile guidance, constructive suggestions, keen interest and encouragement throughout the course of the study. Always available and forthcoming he steered and guided along the way. It would have been impossible to carry out this study without his support.

I am also thankful to the entire faculty of Department of Economics. I sincerely thank Dr. M.R. Khurana and Dr. B.R. Kandooi for their encouragement.

I would like to take this opportunity to record my appreciation and thank for the ever cooperative and helpful attitude of non teaching staff in the department. My Special thanks to Shri. Harichand and Shri Ved Prakash Librarian in the department. I gratefully acknowledge the support of department of NCAER library, New Delhi.

A special word of thanks to some of my seniors and colleagues Dr. Poonam Aggarwal, Dr. Kewal Raj who provided me all help and cooperation.

I am also thankful to Prof. Bhagat Ram, (Dean) and Prof. Sudhir Diwan (Associate Dean) of IBS Chandigarh for provided all the cooperation in my research completion.

My profound thanks to my mother for all the support that I received from her. She not only put in every contribution as was possible but also moulded her life
to match the toils, travails, joys and mood swings that are all a part of tough not visible in the pages, of this research work.

And above all I would like to thank the one who is above all, The God Almighty, for always being there with me.

Date: 18-6-2008

Praerna Sharma