Acknowledgments

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My academic journey on the canvass of time looks like a story of yesterday. Although, before the beginning of this journey, I was already carrying that mystifying two letter word ‘Dr’ before my name and was serving as a Class-I Gazetted Officer with Government of Punjab, but still the desire to become a Phylosophae doctor, kept on reminding me to explore possibilities to do my PhD. A million thanks are due to Punjab Academy of Sciences, Patiala; if in 2006, they had not wrongly denied me the Young Scientist award, I won’t had been able to get a chance to cross roads with Prof. D.S. Sidhu, an interaction which eventually blossomed into Guru-shyshia relationship. Somebody has truly said, ‘Strange are the ways of working of almighty’- that altercation with Punjab Academy of Sciences, at the end, proved to be a blessing in disguise. Eventually, not only did I clinched my denied ‘Young Scientist’ award, but also found a great mentor for my PhD.

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I am sure, some names might have slipped from my memory. Since *To err is human*, I apologize for this omission, but that doesn’t mean that I am not grateful to their contribution in completion of my PhD project.

_Ameen !!_

Dated:_______________

Tejbir Singh Sandhu