ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The writing of this thesis has been one of the most significant academic challenges that I ever had to face. Upon completion, it gives me immense pleasure to acknowledge valuable support and cooperation by my teachers, family, friends and my colleagues in Planning Commission, Government of India, New Delhi.

First and foremost, my utmost gratitude to Prof. (Ms.) Perminder Khanna who undertook to act as my Ph.D. supervisor. Her wisdom, knowledge and commitment to the highest standards have inspired and motivated me. It was under her tutelage that I developed a focus and became interested to do research in Energy Economics. The joy and enthusiasm she has for her research was contagious for me even during tough times in the Ph.D. pursuit. I am also thankful for the excellent example she has provided me as a mentor.

I take this opportunity to sincerely acknowledge Dr. Gurmail Singh, Chairperson, Department of Economics, Panjab University, Chandigarh, for providing me the platform for doctoral research in the area of energy economics.

I would like to acknowledge the support and cooperation of Mr. Ved Prakash Bhardwaj, Senior Assistant, Ms. Savita Thakur, Senior Technician and Mr. Ved, Librarian, Department of Economics.

I owe my achievement to Mr. M. L. Aneja and Mrs. Neelam Aneja, my parents, the pillars of my strength who have extended unconditional love, support and patience. My siblings, Geeta Aneja and Rahul Aneja, have shared my passion and helped me in rekindling my dreams. Geeta Aneja, my elder sister whose unwavering support, valuable advice as well as criticism have always shown me the right direction and Rahul Aneja, my younger brother for giving me the moral support.
I owe deep gratitude to my friend Dr. Syed Naved Zahid, without whom this effort would not have been able to reach its desired outcome. He has always supported, encouraged and believed in me and in all my endeavours.

I warmly thank all my friends Dr. Shelly Sharma, Jaspreet Virdi, Dr. Simer Shergill, Pooja Sharma, Vipin Yadav, Aman Verma and many others including my YWCA hostel friends in New Delhi, who have extended their help and support whenever I needed.

I would not have contemplated this work if, Planning Commission, Government of India, New Delhi, would not have given me the opportunity to work, contribute and learn in the planning process and policy making, especially related to Infrastructure Sector in India. My cordial recognition to Mr. Gajendra Haldea, Mr. Ravi Mital, Ms. Namita Mehrotra, Ms. Vandana Aggarwal and Mr. U. K. Sharma for their constructive advice which buttressed me to perform and excel in this field of energy economics.

It was a great pleasure to share my doctoral research over discussions and life with wonderful people like Madhusudhanan S. and Kanv Garg, among others, my office mates who are very close friends now.

I finish with a final silence of gratitude to the Divine and dedicate my work to my parents and supervisor.

Dated Reenu Aneja