There is no denying the fact that research undertakings, particularly in social sciences, represent largely a cooperative effort in which several individuals and organisations contribute. Throughout the course of the present study, I have received help and assistance in such abundance and from so many quarters that it becomes difficult even to mention all of them. The best I can do under the circumstances is to express my gratitude to a prominent few.

Out of sincere feelings of indebtedness I take this opportunity of thanking Dr. Harish Sharma, Reader, Department of Education, Panjab University, Chandigarh, under whose able guidance the thesis work was carried out. He showed keen interest in the problems arising during the course of my research and with earnest endeavour helped and directed me to give a presentable shape to the crude material that was gathered. The constant encouragement he has provided and the penetrating criticism and valuable suggestions he has given at the various stages of the work have made the study what it is. More than I can express in words, have I benefitted from his scholarly approach and devotion to academic pursuits. I owe my deepest regards to Dr. Sudesh Gakhar, Chairman, Department of Education, Panjab University, Chandigarh, who always encouraged and inspired me to complete the work.

I am indebted to the inmates of the different prisons,
who supplied valuable information for this study, and to whom the present work is dedicated.

I am also thankful to the Superintendents of different Jails and Nari-Nikaten at Chandigarh, Delhi and Lucknow for providing necessary facilities for the collection of data. Their staff members also deserve my gratitude for providing necessary facilities.

I am grateful to the Indian Council of Social Sciences Research, New Delhi, for awarding me short term fellowship.

I would fail in my duty if I don't express my gratitude to Mr. B.S. Nagi, Programmer, Council for Social Development, New Delhi, who assisted me in carrying out analysis of data.

Many of my friends in the University and outside have willingly assisted me in a number of ways in presenting this thesis. To all of them I am deeply indebted.

The help extended by my brother Sanjeev Sharma and Neena Kanwar in the collection of data cannot be ignored while thanking Dr. Paramjit K. Tulsi, Amarjit Kaur, Neeraj and Ambika for the completion of this work.

I am glad to express my gratitude to Shri Dev Dutt Sharma and his family members for their hospitality while in Delhi for field work, during which period I formed memorable associations with them.

Grateful thanks are due to Shri R.P. Rampal for providing necessary facilities to conduct this study, while in Lucknow.
I cannot forget to thank my wellwishers for encouragement and possible help and my parents for their implicit blessings for the completion of this work.

Lastly, I would also like to express my gratitude to my husband Mr. Anil Atri who exercised exemplary patience and understanding, and for being a constant source of inspiration and support throughout the progress of the work.

Panjab University, Chandigarh.

(SUSHMA XUMARI)