Acknowledgement

During my Ph. D Thesis, I learnt one thing for sure that I could never have done my research without the support and encouragement of a lot of people. I hereby take privilege in expressing my thanks to all those who contributed in many ways to the success of this study and made it an unforgettable experience for me.

I would like to express my profound sense of reverence to my dedicated mentors and supervisors Prof. Sangeeta Arora, Prof. Kalpana K. Mahajan and Prof. Amar Nath Gill, Department of Statistics Panjab University, Chandigarh for their constant guidance, support, motivation and untiring help during the course of my PhD. My heartfelt appreciation goes to them for their flexibility in scheduling, gentle encouragement, constructive criticism and relaxed demeanor which made for a good working relationship and the impetus for me to finish this work. Their unflinching courage and conviction will always inspire me, and I hope to continue to work with their noble thoughts.

I am indebted to the Chairperson, Department of Statistics, Panjab University, Chandigarh and all the other faculty members for their generous support and help throughout my research work. I will also like to thank all the non-teaching staff for their kind help and cooperation.

I would also like to extend my gratitude to Ms. Neetu and Mr. Harmanpreet and my friends Abha, Sapna, Sahil, Pooja and Gagandeep for providing me such a rich and supportive environment. A special note of thanks to Dr. Pooja Bansal for her friendship, encouragement and timely help.

I will like to put on record the help obtained from Chandigarh Pollution Control Committee (CPCC) for providing me the requisite data for my research work.

Of course no acknowledgments would be complete without thanking my parents Mr. Nathi Lal Nimesh and Mrs. Sushila Nimesh for their everlasting love, sacrifices and prayers. They have taught me to give my best in what I do, and be strong through adversity. Dad has always inspired me by being a role model of resilience, strength and Character, while mum’s virtue of patience and faith has always been admirable. They have helped me at every stage of my personal and academic life, and longed to see this achievement come true. I am also thankful to my whole family, brother, sister in law, sisters, nephew and niece for their love and support.

Above all, I owe it all to Almighty God for granting me the wisdom, health and strength to undertake this research task and enabling me to its completion.

Date: 12-12-2018

Ruby Razhi