ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The study was undertaken under the inspiring leadership and scholarly guidance of Professor P.N. Pimpley, Chairman of the Department of Sociology, Panjab University, Chandigarh. I do not have adequate and appropriate words to convey the heartfelt gratitude to him. The marathon sittings which I had with him during these seven years shall ever remain memorable as an example of sincerity of the guide.

I take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to the authorities of the Panjab University, Chandigarh, for granting me Research Fellowship and also permitting me to continue as a part-time student. I also owe my gratitude to Dr. Dharam Vir, Professor in Chemical Engineering for his great help in the data analysis on computer.

I am deeply indebted to my teacher, Dr. A. Mahajan, Reader (Associate Professor) Department of Sociology, Panjab University, Chandigarh and my very close friends, Dr. Paramjit Singh Judge, Associate Fellow, Punjab State Institute of Public Administration, Chandigarh; Dr. Satish K. Sharma, Lecturer, Department of Sociology, Panjab University, Chandigarh, for their untiring help and cooperation rendered to me at difficult stages of this work; and Dr. Mrs. Mohinder K. Sandhu, Lecturer, Department of Sociology, Panjab University, Chandigarh, for her constant encouragement.

I also wish to put on record my sincere sense of gratitude for Dr. H. McRoberts, under whose guidance I, as a graduate student, completed a full-year course in Statistics at Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada. I believe it was his guidance which proved an asset to me while applying statistical tools in the data analysis for the present study. It also reminds me of my cousin, Mr. Avtar Singh Bains, who supported my studies in Canada.
My knowledge of statistical analysis and applications was augmented by Professor M.C. Shekar and Professor Victor Jesudasan under whom I attended an ICSSR sponsored data processing course at Administrative Staff College, Hyderabad. I am also indebted to them.

I am also grateful to Prof. Marc Galanter, Professor of Law and of South-Asian Studies, University of Wisconsin, USA, who took keen interest in my study and sent his valuable suggestions and references of certain rare studies. Dr. S.R. Ahlawat and Er. Vishvesh K. Maini also deserve my sincere thanks for their help in arranging certain journals and books needed for my work.

The role of Prof. R.N. Seth and Mrs. Lavleen Dhamiwal is worth special mention. They took keen interest in giving a thorough reading to the manuscript and made invaluable contribution in the finalization of this thesis. I remain indebted to them.

I also wish to thank Mrs. Pimpley, Mrs. Neerja Pandit, As. Gurpreet Bal, Miss Jyoti Seth and Mrs. Suman Lata Pathak, for their encouragement ever since I began with my study.

My respondents, who spared quite a lot of their time in furnishing whatever information I needed, deserve special thanks. Their free and frank responses on several delicate issues helped me a lot in assessing the correct position. I am deeply indebted to them.

My wife, Mohini and children, Loveleen and Puneet, through their love, affection and unstinting understanding, have always been a source of great inspiration. During the course of my study I may have had unwittingly caused them some anguish for which, I hope, I will be forgiven.

Finally, I take it to be my proud privilege to thank Mr. Pardesi, who toiled day and night to type out this manuscript excellently. I profusely thank him for his services.


Ravinder Singh Rana

Ravinder Singh Rana