Acknowledgement

Knowledge rests on knowledge; what is new is meaningful because it departs slightly from what was known before. Similar is true with research also. In my opinion, doing a Ph.D. is a sacred task and this was definitely one of the best decisions of my life. Additional energy and vitality for the research was provided externally through various sources. It is a pleasant aspect that now I have an opportunity to express my gratitude for all of them who directly or indirectly contributed towards its completion.

Firstly, I pray an bow to God Who gave energy for the completion of the thesis, because without Almighty’s blessing it is not possible to submit the thesis in due time.

For most I express my deep sense of gratitude and indebtedness to my supervisor Dr. Shrikamal Sharma, Professor and Head, Department of General and Applied Geography, and Director Population Research Centre, Dr. H.S. Gour Vishwavidyalaya Sagar (M.P.) for his ungrudging this work. His encourageous assessment, affectionate words and ever available patience hearing always kept me charged and motivated to perform to best ever in the condition of ups and downs.

I would like to express my deep sense of gratitude to Professor J. L. Jain, Professor S.K. Shukla, Professor Kailash Choubey, Dr. R. P. Mishra, Dr. P. Soni, Dr. C.K. Jain and Dr. R. K. Shrivastri, all faculty members of the Department of Geography, Dr. H.S. Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar (M.P.) for their encouragements which I have been receiving during the research work. I am also thankful to all the staff members of the Department who have been helpful throughout this long period.

I always respectfully remember my beloved father Late Shri M.L. Upadhyay at every step of this venture who always indirectly encouraged me; from him I got this inspiration to do this research work. My this research work is dedicated to him. My deep sense of gratitude is to my loving mother Smt. Kanti Upadhyay who shared with
all the moments of different colours with immense love and ever-available patience. My respect and profound affection is beyond the range of inscription of words.

I would like to express my deep sense of gratitude to my brother Shri Pramod Upadhyay and Bhabhi Ji Smt. Archana Upadhyay, to all my elder sisters and brother-in-law who always encouraged me. I am also thankful to Ms. Deepshikha Katare and younger brother Harish Swami and Ashutosh Tiwari who have helped a lot in collection of data related to research work from various departments and places. I am also thankful to youngers of my family: Somesh, Sumit, Sanidhya, Ashutosh, Prakhar, Udit, Subhi and loving Pratyush whose loving affections kept me active at all the time.

From the core of my heart I extend my thanks to all the research scholars of the department, whose help and co-operation kept me at distance from difficulties. They extended fruitful help in solving and discussing many problems, which arose during this research work. I wish to recall my thanks to my closest and dearest friends, and others who directly or indirectly extended their co-operations in completion of this work.

I extend my thanks to Mr. N.R. Patra and Mr. Goutam Bera of Professional Computers, Sagar who took pains of performing all computer works and gave shape to the thesis.

Sulekha Upadhyay