ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

It is my proud privilege to place on record my deep sense of gratitude to my respected supervisor Dr. S.L. Sharma, Prof. Department of Sociology, Punjab University, Chandigarh, for his able guidance, apt suggestions and valuable criticism. His scholarly direction and cordial interest in the execution of the present work encouraged me to develop a deeper insight into the nature and significance of research in this field.

My thanks are due to Dr. Sherry Sabharwal, Lect., Department of Sociology, for going through the rough draft of the present work. I am thankful to Dr. K. Kayastha of department of Sociology who helped to solve methodological problems and Dr. K.G. Iyer of the same department who spared time to discuss research problems and sociological theory.

I am equally thankful to Dr. K.P. Singh, who as chairperson of the department of Sociology took quick steps to arrange books for me at the last stage of my work.

I am extremely thankful to all the activists who provided we with required information and my family members who helped me in different implicit ways to carry out this research work.

NEELU KANG