ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

At the very outset, I would like to thank the Almighty God for having given me a valuable opportunity and enough patience to complete my work.

At the very first opportunity, I deem it my pious duty to express my deepest gratitude to my guide, Prof. J.K. Chauhan, Department of Laws, Panjab University, Chandigarh, under whose learned guidance the present study has been completed. It is difficult to express in words the efforts he put in enriching this work. He always remained very inspiring and cooperating.

It has also been a matter of pride and profound pleasure to have worked under kind and able supervision of my co-supervisor Dr. Devinder Singh, Associate Professor, Department of Laws, Panjab University, Chandigarh. I am beholden to him for helping me through various aspects of my research work and meticulously examining my manuscript despite his extremely busy schedule.

I do acknowledge my thanks to Prof. Paramjit S. Jaswal, Chairman, Department of Laws, Panjab University, Chandigarh for his cooperation in the completion of this study.

I am extremely grateful to Prof. Shashi K. Sharma, Ex-Chairman, Department of Laws, Panjab University, Chandigarh for his support and cooperation during my research work.

I round my sincere thanks to all my fellow colleagues at Department of Laws, pact for their support at a time when I need it the most.
I would be failing in my duty if I do not acknowledge the enduring support and encouragement received from Prof. Kamal Jeet Singh, Department of Laws, Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla.

I make special mention with regard to the help that I got from the library staff of the libraries: Department of Laws, Panjab University, Chandigarh, A.C. Joshi Library, Panjab University, Chandigarh, Indian Law Institute, Delhi, Jawahar Lal Nehru University, Delhi, National Commission for Women, National Human Rights Commission, Library of Supreme Court of India, New Delhi, Department of Laws, Shimla.

I am deeply grateful to my parents for their boundless patience, constant care, love, understanding and encouragement.

I am beholden to my younger brother Sandeep Pathania who showed a keen interest in my work and helped me in my field work.

It is matter of great pleasure to acknowledge the time to time support and encouragement rendered to me by my younger sister Sneh Lata. She always stood with me during bad as well as good times and helped me to come out from difficult situations. It would not have been possible to complete this Herculean task without her help.

I am deeply grateful to Swati Sharma for her boundless patience, constant care and encouragement.

I am highly obliged to Prof. Ashutosh Sharma for his co-operation and selfless involvement, which has helped to accomplish this task.

I would like to express my special thanks to my friends Dr. Sachiv Kumar, Mr. Anil Kumar Thakur, Ms. Rajni Sharma, Mr. Manish Katoch,
Mr. Ajay Thakur, Mr. Geet Ranjan and Mrs. Ruma Guleria for giving me support to complete my work.

I record my appreciation to Mr. Munish Sharma for typing this manuscript with speed and efficiency, despite his numerous pre-occupations.

I express my sincerest thanks to my husband Mr. Madhur Mohit Mahajan who ungrudgingly took great pain in helping and assisting me in various ways.

Finally, to Param Guru Osho and Sadguru Trivir, whose teachings have inspired as well guided me to strike a fine balance between the outer and inner world. I can do no more than reaffirm my eternal devotion to the Master of Masters Osho and Sadguru Trivir.

Babita Devi