ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Gratitude is a gesture of gratefulness that cannot be measured in words. I thank the Almighty for his showered blessings to enable me to complete this research work.

I am deeply grateful to Professor Shashi K. Sharma, Chairperson, Department of Laws, Panjab University, Chandigarh for his constant support and help.

For consistent guidance, encouragement and all kinds of support I owe my heartfelt thanks to my mentor, my supervisor Dr. Nishtha Jaswal, Professor, Department of Laws, Panjab University, Chandigarh. I am appreciative for her being very considerate and accommodating with my delays and problems. I owe her more than words can convey.

My profound thanks to Dr. P.S. Jaswal, Professor, Department of Laws, Panjab University, Chandigarh for his constructive suggestions throughout the course of this study.

I express my sincere thanks to the Library staff of National Commission for Women, New Delhi; the Library staff, Department of Laws, Panjab University, Chandigarh especially Mr. Vinod Thakur and the Health Department, Haryana for providing me valuable material relevant to the present study.

I feel indebted to Mr. Atul Marya, Judicial Magistrate First Class cum Civil Judge (Junior Division), Chandigarh for giving me his valuable time and opinions on legal technicalities and also for his pragmatic suggestions, despite his very hectic schedule.

Dr. Vandana Gupta, Deputy Director, Haryana AIDS Control Society, for her knowledgeable information, valuable time and suggestions deserves special thanks.

My special thanks to Mr. Rajiv Goyal, Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate First Class, Siwani; Dr. Sunder Lal, former Head of Department and Professor in Social and Preventive Medicine, Government Medical College, Rohtak; Dr. Shelly Girdhar; Dr. Upasana Mehta; Dr. B.K.Parinja, State Project Coordinator, Reproductive Child Health (R.C.H.) and Dr. Sudha
Sharma, Deputy Director, R.C.H., for their cooperation and help in carrying out the present empirical study.

I record my sincere thanks to Dr. S.K. Sharma, Director, Institute of Correctional Administration, Sector 26, Chandigarh, Professor K.S. Kaistha, Department of Sociology, Panjab University, Chandigarh and Dr. Sherry Sabharwal, Professor, Department of Sociology, Panjab University, Chandigarh for their valuable guidance.

For their unconditional help, I feel indebted to Mrs. Renu Bansal and Mr. Sanjiv Bansal, Advocates in the completion of this study.

I extend a note of gratitude to all my respondents – Doctors, Advocates, Judges, Police Officials and the female respondents in particular for their patience and cooperation in the successful conduct of empirical study which was imperative for the present work.

I would be failing in my duty if I do not make a mention of a deep sense of gratitude to Mr. Aman Moudgill and Mr. Raju Bhatia for taking personal interest in typing and in shaping up my work to a presentable form and also to Mr. Munish Sharma, Computer Incharge, Department of Laws, Panjab University, Chandigarh for his timely help, cooperation and expertise in the completion of this work. Due thanks to Mrs. Thapar who helped me in time of urgency by making herself available for the typing work.

Special thanks to my husband, my parents-in-law, my brother/sister-in-law and all close friends for their incessant encouragement, inspiration, support, patience and guidance throughout the span of my research work, without which the present study could not have been possible.

My niece Aadrika and my little daughter Nehal deserve special thanks for filling colour to my life in the long academic pursuit. I am appreciative of my daughter for being accommodating according to my schedules.

Last but not the least I owe a lot to my parents for their upbringing and laying down the foundation of my career. Their faith in me gave me strength to strive and yield.

SHIPRA KAUSHAL