ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

It would not have been possible to collect, organize, and present this material without the help of many. I take this opportunity to acknowledge my indebtedness to them for the assistance they provided.

The research reported in this thesis was carried out under the valuable guidance of Dr. (Ms.) Vinoda N. Murthy, Professor and Head of the Department of Clinical Psychology, National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), Bangalore. I am indebted to her for all her practical suggestions and constructive criticisms.

I am sincerely grateful to Dr. H. N. Murthy, Professor and former Head of the Department of Clinical Psychology, NIMHANS, for providing me with an opportunity to have a glimpse of a section of a hitherto inexplicable phenomenon. Dr. Murthy opened the intriguing field of reincarnation to me and helped me to view this old subject in the new light of scientific inquiry.

I thank Dr. R. M. Varma, Director, NIMHANS, for taking an active interest in my research and allowing me to work at the Institute.

I am immensely indebted to Dr. I. Stevenson, Carlson Professor of Psychiatry and Director, Division of Parapsychology, Department of Psychiatry, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia, U.S.A., who helped me all the way through after
initiating me into the field of reincarnation research. I thank him for his constant encouragement and for providing me with a number of invaluable works of reference.

The present investigation involved a tremendous amount of fieldwork. I take this opportunity to record my appreciation and thank all those who trekked with me during the arduous country rides, waded across rivers, and cheerfully bore the brunt of it all. In this list, my profound gratitude is due to Dr. Jamuna Prasad, former Deputy Director of Education and Director, Bureau of Psychology, Allahabad; to Dr. L. P. Mehrotra, Lecturer in Education, Ishwaran Saran Degree College, Allahabad; to Mr. Chandra Prakash, Principal, Normal School, Meerut; to Mr. K. S. Yadav, Vocational Guidance Counsellor, Regional Psychological Center, Agra; to Mr. K. S. Rawat, former Deputy Director of Education, U.P.; to Dr. K. K. Agarwal, Regional Psychologist, Regional Psychological Center, Bareilly, and to Dr. D. R. Barker, Research Assistant Professor, Division of Parapsychology, University of Virginia. All of them accompanied me from time to time during fieldtrips for data collection.

I am no less indebted to my uncle, Mr. T. S. Kalra, who cheerfully lent his hand in times of emergency as my co-field worker when such help was short.

Thanks are also due to Mr. M. I. Bhatt, Senior Librarian, NIMHANS, for providing me with all the needed references and help.
The assistance provided by Mr. M. Dennis and Dr. D. R. Barker, Division of Parapsychology, University of Virginia, in the analysis of data is appreciated. I am grateful to Miss Emily F. Williams, also of the Division of Parapsychology, University of Virginia, for checking and correcting an important number of details.

My thanks are due to Ms. M. Lunt and Mr. B. Wilson, Division of Academic Computing, University of Virginia, who led me safely through the maze of computers.

I warmly thank Mrs. I. Dunn, Ms. B. Byrd, Ms. R. Johnson, and Mr. J. McCracken, Division of Parapsychology, University of Virginia, for transferring my scribble into neatly typed pages with infinite patience and skill.

My most sincere thanks are due to the subjects and their respective informants for their enduring co-operation and for bearing with me during long interviews.

I sincerely thank the Ministry of Education for providing me with the scholarship that made this research possible.

I am also thankful to the Administrative officials of the University of Virginia for letting me avail myself of various facilities during my stay there.

Many other persons have helped directly or indirectly in varying degrees. To list them all would result either in an unmanageable directory or unfair omissions; but I am grateful to them all.