ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Dr. (Mrs.) R. Diwan for her valuable guidance, constant encouragement and whole hearted support during the course of this study.

It gives me immense pleasure to express my deep sense of gratitude to Prof. M.L. Naik for his guidance, critical suggestions and regular encouragement during the course of this study.

I am deeply indebted to Dr. V. Rai for his constructive suggestions and valuable guidance during the course of research work. I am grateful to Dr. S. B. Gupta and Prof. K. K. Bachkaiya for kind suggestions, encouragement, providing permission and facilities for the present study.

I also thank the technical and non-technical staff of the department and the library for extending their help and services all along. I am thankful to my friends Dhirendra, Ashutosh, Neeraj, Anirudh, Anup, Alok, K.K. and Pervez.

When it comes to express my gratitude to my family members, I am at loss of words. I thank my father Dr. B. S. Thakur, my mother Smt. Meenakshi Thakur, my brother Salil and sister Smt. Shweta for all their forbearance, goodness, support and love. Thanks are due to my wife Mansi for her constant support and filial affection during the tenure of this investigation.

I thank my teachers Dr. M. L. Naik, Dr. V. Rai, Dr. (Mrs.) Vijaya Koche, Dr. S. K. Mishra, Dr. A. K. Pati, Dr. A. K. Gupta, Dr. (Mrs.) A. Poddar, Dr. (Mrs.) Sanju Sinha who have taught me to be thankful and to unhesistantly express my gratitude. Lastly with Grace of God, The Almighty helped me through in all of my endeavours.

KAPIL SINGH THAKUR