ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

“There is as much greatness of mind in acknowledging a good turn, as in doing it.”

— Lucius Annaeus Seneca

Any task, however mean or majestic, cannot take the desired road to fruition without the combined efforts of entire team. The eminence of these efforts is all the more accentuated in an academic pursuit like the present one. I take this as an opportunity to express my gratitude to all the special people who have given their heart whelming support in conceiving and compiling this research work. No words of thanksgiving and gratitude will be enough to capture their endearing love and eminent role in my life and this dissertation but this Herculean task will remain undone without placing on record their unflinching support.

First and foremost, I thank the Almighty God, for granting me the physical and mental strength, that kept me standing and for the hope and courage to make me believe that this would be possible, rewarding and satisfying. I cannot thank Him enough for all blessings which got me to this juncture in my life, for putting research in my mind, giving me wisdom needed for this and putting me amongst people who guided me all through especially my family.

My parents undoubtedly deserve all adulations and admiration for instilling in me the values of dedication and commitment towards every responsibility assumed. They have always put life in me and my work and it is their unconditional support and silent sacrifices which enabled me to think of this thesis and get it to the point of submission. My father, Sh. V.B. Handa, who has always led by example and his investment of time, energy, effort and money deserves all credit for this Herculean task which carries my name. Indispensable role of my motivating and very practical mother, Mrs. Kiran Handa is matchless. During all this time it was like sending me to school once again on the part of my parents be it dropping and picking or packing my tiffins and such things and they made this schooling enjoyable and memorable.

No lexicons and word banks can provide me apt words for expressing my gratitude towards my guide and mentor, Dr. Balwinder Singh, for providing academic insights, emotional strength and instilling
the urge to learn. He has been instrumental in pushing me into this ocean of research, helping me getting lost and then successfully finding the shore and ensuring his support and guidance in the midst of all this. His patience and calm in the midst of my queries, usually absurd, patient handling of my so many questions and his confidence in me have been the anchors without which I could not have thought of taking this plunge. His vast research knowledge, impeccable precision with statistical analysis, worldly wisdom lend me a sense of pride to be his student and also put a strange sense of responsibility to work for his pride and prestige.

I owe my sincere thanks to my brother, Mr. Mohit Handa for his critical inputs, thought provoking questions, knowledge support and constant motivation through insistence on deadlines, plans of action and scientific approaches in handling research work. His ways of respecting my work and responsibilities lend constant motivation. It is an honor to place on record my heart-felt thanks for my elder brother (brother-in-law), Mr. Sachin Kapur for his unique contributions in my life and thesis. His continuous support, concern and care in thoughts and actions in spite of being awfully busy have provided an air of confidence and helped to work better. The great role which my sister, Dr. Deepali Handa Kapur, plays in our family is matchless and deserves all kudos. Being overly ready to provide any and all help- academic, infrastructural, emotional, social and making space for everything in her tightly packed schedule and her availability always makes her the pillar of our family. The confidence and support that she lends eases out things and has helped me focus on my research better. My loving thanks are due to my very dear niece and nephew, Sanchita and Shitij for their love and support, rejuvenations provided and their riddles with regards to my unending work. The time and effort which the dissertation called for were definitely a cut on their share of my time.

I am indebted to my very supportive guides and well wishers Dr. Ravinder Vinayek, Dr. Sanket Vij, Dr. Narendra Kumar, Dr. H.J. Ghoshroy, for their constant knowledge sharing and knowledge building efforts, their valuable creative inputs and dependable suggestions and for making me a part of their lives and families. Words of thanks are also due to Dr. C.P Gupta, Dr. Neeraj Kaushik and Dr. Ajay Chauhan for introducing me to the world of research analysis and providing meaningful insights into research world. I am thankful to them for sparing time for my not so intelligent queries and guiding my path. I place on record my very sincere thanks and warm regards for the master of econometrics, a great teacher and admirable human being, Dr. Sanjay Rastogi who helped me explore
the scary roads of econometrics through personal lectures and one on one interactions. His regression
lessons are my life time earnings and I have discovered a dependable guide and amazing human being
in him.

I would like to acknowledge the camaraderie and critical expertise of my friends and guiding forces,
Dr Ramandeep Kaur, Dr Swapna Mishra, Ms. Gurleen, Dr. Anu Khullar, CS Aparna, Madam Alka
Sharma. I am thankful to them for their confidence in me and providing me the desired boost in all my
lows. Their support has been an important input for this research compilation.

My sincere thanks are also due to the Head of the Department, Dr. Lakhwinder Singh, all senior
teachers and colleagues of the department, the library staff and members of the non-teaching staff of
department for their support and cooperation in all ways.

At this important milestone, I also miss the motivations and inspirations of an exemplary teacher and
a father figure, Dr. Subhash who was one of the persons who guided me in his own ways governed by
his concern for me and my career. I will remember his lessons all my life.

Thank you all for being in my life and contributing to it positively

(Rekha Handa)