ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This thesis grew out of a series of dialogues with my supervisor Prof. Mridula Garg. Through her Socratic questioning, ma'am brought me closer to the reality I had initially perceived, eventually enabling me to grasp its rich complexity. Her comments on chapter drafts are themselves a course in critical thought upon which I will always draw. Her capacity to combine critique with an immediate empathy and commitment towards researcher and others engaged in struggle will always inspire me. Her guidance helped me in all the time of research and writing of this thesis and at this moment of accomplishment I take this opportunity to place on record, my sincere gratitude to her.

I am thankful to Prof. D.S. Chouhan (Head), Prof. P.R. Sharma (Former Head), Department of Mathematics, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur for providing me necessary facilities for carrying out the research work.

I gratefully acknowledge Mr G.K. Garg, spouse of Dr (Mrs) Mridula Garg for his constant moral support, encouragement and sharing mam’s valuable time with me, even after her retirement.

I owe a special thanks to Prof. K.C. Gupta (Former Head), Malaviya National Institute of Technology, Jaipur for his kind concern, blessings, encouragement and inspiration throughout my research work.

I extend my sincere thanks to the Management of UEM, Jaipur. Prof. S. Chakrabarti (Vice-Chancellor), Prof. P. Sharma (Provost) and Prof. A. Mukherjee (Dean, Faculty of Engineering) for trust in my abilities and providing me necessary facilities for carrying out my research work. I am also thankful to the entire UEM family for the favour and support.
I am indebted to Dr Pratibha Manohar, Assistant Professor (Mathematics), SKN Agricultural University, Jobner, Jaipur for her personal attention, generous care, support, and advice throughout the research work.

I would like to thank my colleagues Dr Sangeeta Choudhary, Dr Lata Chanchalani and friends Dr Vikas Kumar Agarwal, Dr Rashmi Agrawal for all the stimulating discussions and fun we have had during the course of my Ph.D. at the Department of Mathematics, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur.

Most importantly, none of this would have been possible without the love and patience of my parents, bhaiyaa and bhabhie. Their unwavering belief and faith in me, allowed me to be as ambitious as I wanted.

(Ajay Sharma)