ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Thanks to God Almighty for giving me this opportunity to express my heart-felt gratitude's to all those who have given me helping hands to make this study a success.

First of all, I offer my deepest sense of gratitude to Dr. S.N. Sharma, Professor and Head, Department of Sociology, Dr. H.S. Gaur University of Saugar, Sagar, Madhya Pradesh, for his valuable advices, keen interest and supervision during the course of my investigation and the preparation of this thesis.

I am equally indebted to Dr. A.P. Singh Professor, Dr. Diwakar Sharma Professor, Dr. Diwakar Rajput Reader and all the staff of Department of Sociology for their sincere help in providing me all necessary facilities, critical observation, and valuable suggestions, which revealed many hidden aspects of the problems at every stage of the investigation.

I am grateful to Shri. J.C. Jatia, Chief Executive Officer Zila Panchayat Mandla and Shri, K.K. Shrivastava, Additional C.E.O. Mandla for his profound interest, which have always given me the new lines of thoughts.

I proudly avail this opportunity to express my gratitude to Hon'ble Shri H.P. Singh, District Judge, District Consumer Forum Jabalpur, Shri. S.K. Gupta Reader (Department of Geology) & Miss Kaushalya, Miss Archana, Sri R.S. Saini, Mrs Sunita Kori for their appreciable inspiration and help during the entire period of the study. My thanks are also due to Officials of Janpad Panchayats, Department of Statistics and Tribal Welfare of Mandla District for their generous cooperation during the collection of data and investigations.

I wish to record the keen appreciation and affection to friends and colleagues for their generous cooperation in the successful completion of the study.

My words cannot express the heartfelt gratitude to my parents, my uncle Shri Ashok Mishra, my aunt Mrs Rekha Mishra and family members whose encouragement and blessings have been a beacon of light to me during the tenure of research study.

NOOPUR BAJPAI