ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful.

This research thesis could not have taken shape but for the help and encouragement of many people, whose contribution I would like to mention. Above all, I would like to express my profound gratitude to the women of Dibai town who shared their experiences and provided me with the necessary data.

Supervision is not about giving orders; it is about giving oneself. This study has been guided and supervised by Dr. S. Zainuddin, Reader, Department of Sociology and Social Work. His cognate attitude, academic excellence, skillful guidance, and thought provoking ideas helped me to complete my work on time.

I would like to thank Professor Noor Mohammad, Chairman, Department of Sociology and Social Work for his support throughout this work.

With great respect I express my deepest sense of gratitude to Prof. Imtiaz Ahmad. His comprehension of the full scope of issues related to the topic and his willingness to contribute fresh perspective was very helpful. Throughout my study, he inspired me to do quality work through his obsession with quality. He painstakingly studied the final draft and provided suggestions to make the thesis more meaningful. His help has gone a long way in making this research a possibility.

I would like to express my appreciation to the staff of various libraries of WHO, UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF, MAL AMU, JNU, and DU for their help and support.

Thanks are due to my family members, to my in-laws – Uncle and Aunty, and Shaista for their constant support.

Special thanks to my brothers- in- law Mr. Rashid for helping me with his exceptional computer skills and to Mr. Farooq for moral support.
My sister Rakhshanda is worthy of special thanks for helping me finally deciding on this topic. I am thankful to my sister-in-law Samina and brother Muzaffar Farooq for their help during data collection.

My husband Taj Anwar and my daughter Manaal showed more patience and offered emotional support than any one could ask. This research would not have been completed without their understanding and help.

I am wholly indebted to my sister Ayesha, for helping me in more than one ways. She meticulously organized my work schedules and sorted out related problems by sitting late in the nights.

Last but not the least, My friend Shabina, who was always there for me.

Despite the help and support of so many persons, the flaws and inconsistencies are due to my own frailties.

Dated 22.09.08

(Shazia Farooq Fazli)