Owing to the effect of Socio-economic and Political factors, traditional family pattern in which group interests rather than individual interest were secured, have undergone a change. The new patterns are giving rise to new justice problems relating to individual freedom, equality of sexes, balancing of duties within the family etc., in the welfare state.

Law plays a great role in these changes. It anticipates social needs and provides for changes in the social order to maintain cultural harmony in accordance with the principle of growing justice.

The real problem of law reform in India began with independence. Many of our legal institutions presented an anachronism, hence the need for new outlook and adjustment. Large scale reform is necessitated with the objective to ensure social, economic, and political justice— in consonance with national ideology.
So far as the personal laws of India are concerned, they are based upon religious scriptures of the Hindus, the Christians, the Muslims, the Parsis and the Jews. These laws have a firm hold on the minds of the members of these communities, though some of the provisions of these laws are inconsistent with the rules of justice and equity as we understand them today. To remove such inconsistencies various reforms have been introduced in personal law applicable to the Hindus. For example, bigamy has been prohibited, provisions for divorce have been laid down and efforts made to give equal right of inheritance and succession to women. But we could not introduce such changes in Muslim personal law, especially to prohibit polygamy (through law) though in practice it is becoming infrequent even amongst them. Hence the purpose of present study is to suggest some guidelines to overcome the incidence of polygamy.

The success of a work of this nature depends, to a great extent, on the person under whose guidance it is done. It gives me immense pleasure to record my respectful thanks for Professor Virendra Kumar, Dean of Law Faculty, Fallow, Punjab University, Chandigarh, under whose learned guidance and supervision this
thesis is written. Inspite of his preoccupations, he showed keen interest in my research work right from the very beginning which generated a spirit of confidence and inspiration in me. It was due to his sympathetic and encouraging attitude I could complete this work.

I would also like to express by indebtedness to Professor B.K.Gupta, Chairman of The Department of Laws who has also helped me in the completion of the present work.

I am also obliged to the staff of the Law Department Library, for their courteous disposition and for affording me the necessary facilities for the location and use of the much needed research material.

I am indebted to the members of my family for their highly considerate and accommodating attitude during the span of my study.

Bhagwant Kaur
Bhajan Kaur