ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The present research owes much to many generous souls and institutions in its completion. It is not possible to name all of them but I would like to place on record some who helped and encouraged me immensely from its initiation to completion.

I wish to express my immense sense of gratitude to my supervisor/guide Dr. Nagendra Nath Pandey, Principal of Prahladrai Dalmia lions College of Commerce and Economics, Malad (West), Mumbai and Research Guide at JJTU under whose expertise in demography, valuable guidance, constant encouragement and inspiration, I was able to complete my present thesis. At the same time, I must also express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Satyaveer Singh, Dean of Physical Sciences, JJTU for his helpful comments, valuable suggestions and remarks at different stages of research. Their keen professional interest in my work with exacting standards of research has largely been responsible to shape up this work.

I am thankful to Dr. D. D. Agarwal, Vice Chancellor, JJT University for considering my case and granting me permission for submission of thesis before time.

I am thankful to Ms. Manju Nichani, Principal of K. C. College, Churchgate, Mumbai for encouragement to complete this project work at the earliest in efficient manner and for sanctioning duty leave for participation and presentation of papers in conferences.

I am thankful to all my Statistics teachers and in particular, I must express my sincere gratitude to Shri Dinesh Panjwani, Principal of National College, Bandra, Mumbai for providing inspiration and encouragement to start this project work. He has been an inspiring force throughout my academic life while I was a student of Under Graduate Department of Statistics, K.C. College, Mumbai.

I am very thankful to Dr. Balwant Gopal Singh, Dean of Physical Education, JJTU, Dr. Hemlata Bagla, Vice Principal of K. C. College and Dr. S. A. Dubey, Head of Hindi Department, K. C. College, Mr. R. J. Pawar, Head of Statistics Department, K. C. College and Mrs. V. V.
Ajgaonkar for their encouragement and moral support provided me throughout the research work.

I am indebted to the authorities of International Institute of Population Sciences, Devnar for providing me library and data facilities. I am particularly thankful to Mr. Praveen Kumar of the library, IIPS for extending full co-operation to me in the referencing of books and Publications.

My grateful acknowledgement is also due to my friends Mrs. Meera Parwani, Ms. Anjum Ahmed, Dr. Khalil Ahmed, Dr. Sakharam Muley, Ms. Dina Veera, Mrs. Beena Kamalvijyan, Ms. Sudha Amin, Ms. Payal Agarwal and Mr. Shailesh Shrivastava who rendered friendly assistance at different stages of this work.

It would be unfair on my part if I don’t express my thanks to my student Mr. Ashish Sarowa for his software and technical support.

The encouragement and co-operation that I received from my brothers, sister cannot be put in words.

Last but not the least, I express my deep gratitude to my mother for her everlasting blessings, which motivated me throughout my academic career and will continue to inspire my future academic pursuits.

Ms Asha Angnamal Jindal