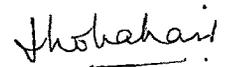


DECLARATION

It is hereby stated that, this ^(Ph.D) research has been conducted under the guidance of Dr.S.Srikantiah. The analyses, discussions, and conclusions have been drawn on the basis of the data that has been collected by this researcher. This dissertation has not been submitted to any other University.



(SHOBA NAIR)
STUDENT



(DR. S.SRIKANTIAH)
GUIDING PROFESSOR

Access to the Personal Computer at the Social Sciences Information Centre, MSU; as well as that of the Dept. of Statistics enabled me to write the code to facilitate the application of SPSS. The Statistics department extended this facility while I was writing my thesis too.

I am overwhelmed by the help extended by Mr.R.D.Maisuria (Sr.Manager) and Mr.Rakesh Shah (Programmer) at the Operations Research Group(ORG), Baroda. I am especially indebted to Mr.Rakesh Shah who without any hesitation skipped many a lunch hour to run SPSS on the data. I would like to thank the PRC too, especially Ms.Varsha Chitania, and Mr.Rajni Patel for facilitating part of the data analysis. I am also grateful to Ms. Neeta Shah and her team at the Industrial Extension Bureau, Ahmedabad, for the data entry work of the pilot survey.

I wish to thank Ms.Bawana Radhakrishnan, Ms.Alka Parikh, and Mr.S.C.Nair for allowing me the use of their computers for extended periods.

My reference and library work were carried out in the following libraries, and I would like to express my gratitude to the staff at these libraries: H.M.Library (M.S.University, Baroda); ORG library, Baroda; Ravi Matthai Library (Institute of Rural Management, Anand (IRMA)); Vikram Sarabhai Library (Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad); Centre for Development Studies (CDS) Library, Trivandrum; Association of Indian Universities (AIU) Library, New Delhi; National Council for Applied Economics Research (NCAER) Library, New Delhi; and National Social Sciences Documentation Centre (NASSDOC), New Delhi. I would like to thank particularly the staff at the IRMA library who have been extremely helpful.

As sociologists repeatedly point out, familial ties in India are indeed strong. Without the encouragement of the support that I received from my family, I doubt whether I would indeed have started this research work at all. Lastly, I would like to thank my friends and colleagues for not only helping me through the many and frequent periods of desolation, but also for the benefit of many a heated discussion which always gave me back my focus.

Shoba Nair
Baroda,
October, 1993.