ACKNOWLEDGEMEN T

I take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to my revered teacher Professor V. N. Kothari who guided the present study upto its completion with constant encouragement, support and sympathy. Not only that he went through drafts of my chapters with painstaking care, but also advised me and saved me from numerous errors. Any inadequacy or errors that may still remain are of course only my responsibility.

I must also frankly admit that I have incurred an enormous intellectual debt to my husband, Ravindra, in developing some of the ideas contained in my Thesis. It is not only through his published writings and zealous nature that I have been inspired, but his continued cooperation, constructive criticism and candid comments throughout various stages of my work have also benefitted me most. Words are not enough to express my infinite re gratitude to him without whose help, inspiration and sacrifices this work could never have come to fruition.

I also wish to record my thanks to my teacher Professor K. N. Reddy for giving some useful suggestions in the early stages of my work. My thanks are also due to Professor M. M. Gandotra of Population Research Centre for extending me all the reference facilities at his end. It has been my pleasure to work in the Economics Department of Faculty of Arts, M.S. University of Baroda under the headship of Professor M.M.Dadi who has all along been quite co-operative and considerate to allow me to carry out my research work smoothly.

All the while that I have been preoccupied with the long and arduous task of preparing this study, two persons my father-in-law Professor H.L.Dholakia and my mother-in-law Smt. V.H.Dholakia - have stood by me through thick and thin with words of courage and comfort. I express my deep gratitude to them without whose inspiration, encouragement and support, I might not have ventured to embark upon such a long and arduous task. Nothing will suffice to express my indebtedness to my mother Savitridevi, bhabhi Niranjanaben and brothers Jagdishbhai and Kaushikbhai who have always helped me and encouraged me to pursue my career. It gives me pleasure to thank both my children, Kruti and Hemang for their patience and understanding. Kruti (8 yrs.) with her limited ability was also of great help in comparing statistical tables and carrying out a few computations.

A major part of the present work was carried out when I was a UGC Research Fellow prior to my joining the M.S.University as a Lecturer in Economics. I am thankful to all concerned with the award of UGC Research Fellowship

ii

to me for enabling me to carry out my research on full-time basis during the early stages. I also record my thanks to the Hansa Mehta Library staff of our University for their willing and smiling help to me at all times. I also greatly acknowledge the help of Mrs. Vasantiben Joshi who relieved me from almost all my domestic duties and allowed me to concentrate on my research work. Finally, I would like to thank Mr. Pratap Bhoite for typing the manuscript with utmost care and without any delay.

Baroda,

Archana Dholakia

April, 1987.