

## *Acknowledgement*

My research work progressed in the right direction and came to a meaningful conclusion solely because of the cooperation offered to me by a number of people at various phases of research endeavor.

I overwhelmingly acknowledge my sincerest gratitude, to my guide Prof. Rolee Kanchan, Department of Geography, Faculty of Science, The M. S. University of Baroda, for her insightful guidance, encouragement and immense support that helped mould my research effort into its present shape. Her invaluable scholarly suggestions, scrupulous supervision and constructive criticism throughout the research work were vital for the successful completion of this work.

It has been my privilege to be associated with Dr. I. M. Bahuguna, Scientist, Space Applications Centre, ISRO, Ahmedabad, who introduced me to this research area and helped me look at the Himalayan Glaciers as a storehouse of research opportunities. I am thankful to Prof. Bindoo Bhatt and Prof. N. R. Dash, Head Department of Geography, Faculty of Science for their motivation, timely help and for the provision of adequate departmental facilities to carry out this work. I duly acknowledge the great insights and words of encouragement provided to me by Prof. Dinesh K. Kanchan at times of my lows during the research period.

I would like to thank University Grants Commission of India (UGC) and The M. S. University of Baroda for providing financial assistance in the form of scholarship to carry out the research.

I also acknowledge the support of the entire staff of Smt. Hansa Mehta Library, Library of Geography Department, The M. S. University of Baroda, Delhi Public Library, Janakpuri, Hardayal Municipal Public Library, Possangipur and most importantly Prof. Surech C. Rai for granting permission to use the vast literature in The Ratan Tata Library, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi. I am also grateful to all the teaching and non-teaching staff of the Department of Geography, Faculty of Science, The M. S. University of Baroda.

I acknowledge my referees, for reviewing my thesis and guiding me in improving its quality.

I extend my special thanks to my friends Dr. Tathagata Gosh, Mr. Sukanta Saha, Mr. Somnath Saha, Mr. Atul Kant Tiwari, Dr. Chandam Chandabadani Devi, Mrs. Gauri Vipra, Mrs. Vaishali Bhatt and Mr. Bikramjit Barooah for their moral support and help whenever I needed during my Ph.D.

Last but not the least, I take this opportunity to thank the pillars of my strength, my parents, Mr. Raj Shekhar Bajpai and Mrs. Prachi Bajpai, for their unwavering faith, timely encouragement and unending patience. It was their love that raised me up again when I got weary. My parent-in-laws, Mr. Bal Krishna Tiwari and Mrs. Kanti Tiwari have been extremely cooperative and I could not have managed without their support. In the end, I would like to express my love and utmost gratitude towards my husband Mr. Amit Tiwari and my daughter, Ms. Aamyia Tiwari. The continued support from Amit and unconditional love from Aamyia made this long research journey a breezy one.

I hereby conclude by extending earnest appreciation to everyone who helped me in my research journey either directly or indirectly.

Vanya Bajpai