

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to express my sincere thanks to Dr. Ganesh Devi, my research supervisor, for his constant and continual interest in the topic of my research. His active involvement, guidance and patience enabled me to complete my dissertation successfully.

I would like to thank the Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Fund, New Delhi, for giving me a Doctoral Scholarship for my Ph.D. research, which enabled me to conduct my research with considerable ease. Thanks are also due to the Librarian of Shrimati Hansa Mehta Library for allowing me extensive use of the library facilities. I would especially like to thank Ms. Nita Kapadia for her painstaking and competent computer work.

I express my deep gratitude and indebtedness to my parents and my family for their constant encouragement and cooperation which has made the completion of this study possible.

Shilpa Desai