ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Undertaking this PhD has been a truly life changing experience for me and it would not have been possible to do without the support and guidance that I received from many people.

First and foremost, I would like to sincerely thank my supervisor Dr. Rajeev Kumar Singh for his guidance and understanding. You have created the invaluable space for me to do this research and develop myself as a researcher in the best possible way. I greatly appreciate the intellectual freedom you have given to me. I am very much thankful of him for his guidance, positive encouragement and a warm spirit to finish my thesis, often with big doses of patience.

I also express my gratitude to the other faculty members of my department Prof. Rajbir Singh Dalal (Head of the Department, political Science), Dr. Chanchal Kumar Sharma. I owe my deep sense of gratitude to former faculty members of Political science department at CUH, Prof. Satish Kumar (Prof. IGNOU) and Dr. Raghvendra Pratap Singh (Associate Professor, University of Lucknow) for their suggestions in conducting the research. Thankful to the University for providing the facility of scholar room, my very own space for the academic endeavors.

I feel obliged to various reputed institutions for their unending support in course of the preparation of this work. I am thankful to the Nehru Memorial Museum & Library; New Delhi, Library of Punjab University; Chandigarh, Library of Jawahar Lal Nehru University; New Delhi and Library staff of my very own institution Central University of Haryana for making available periodicals, books, journals and other materials required to complete my thesis.

I would like to thank my hostel -Central University Haryana girls hostel, my lovely hostel mates and some of very lovely souls I met in this tedious journey of my doctoral thesis, Kalpana Shukla, Manisha Jha, Purnima Singh, Saguna Guleria, Anwita, Arti, have turned hostel mates to very good friends. Although I was the senior, most of the times, I have felt I have grown and learned from the experiences and the lives of these fellow inmates.

A special thank to my roommate Anjali Singh, for her great understanding and support. Thank you for encouraging and supporting me, knowing me better than anyone really should, for all late night chats, dance parties and taking care of mine when I am sick, for the food runs in the Mess. She helped me with anything and everything, even if she didn't know how Google comes in handy for you. Thank you for providing the every homely & peaceful environment in the hostel room.

Adapting to a village life from a Urban settings I did keep a very interdisciplinary approach in this journey of mine, as pertaining to even my thesis and doing around the same. This tedious journey did carve the people who would not just restrain to one discipline when making or learning from fellow faculty members. Shikha Ahlawat (Assistant Professor at DTHM) is one of the faculty member having very helping nature and down to earth person in the campus of CUH, I enjoyed the evening badminton sessions with her, not to miss often made me relax, re-align and re-focus in life.

A very special thanks to Mr. Prabhpreet Singh, PhD scholar at Punjab University for his invaluable advice, feedback & sparing his valuable time during my field work. Without his support it is impossible to complete this herculean task.

I would like to thank all my PhD colleagues, with whom I have shared moments of deep anxiety but also of big excitements. Their presence was very important in a process that felt as tremendously solitaire. Most importantly I would like to thank my great friend Shreya Malik, PhD scholar at Ambedkar University Delhi, for the wonderful time we shared, you cheered me on and celebrated each accomplishment. Thank you for listening, offering me advice and supporting me through this entire process. Your support, encouragement & enthusiasm were worth more than I can express on paper. I am also thankful to my PhD fellows Pawanji, Rajan, Sohan and my juniors Mohit, Rahul Ranjan, Akash and Akshat in the department of political science providing the very friendly atmosphere in the department of political science.

How to miss the student friendly environment of University campus, the lush greenery and the scorching heat many times taught me that the miles I had to unravel while reaching the destination. Watching sunrise and sunset in the Aravillies, wakeup by the chirps of birds are the best thing which is beyond the explanation. Many times, when I was tired or stuck in some thoughts, I used to enjoy the evening walks in the campus,

looking at sky full of stars and enjoys the fresh and cold waves, which a research scholar

needs often do to move away from the realities of life.

Nobody has been more important to me in the pursuit of PhD than the family members.

Finally, my deep and sincere gratitude to my parents for their continuous and unparalleled

love, help and support. I am grateful to my younger brother Vishal always being there for

me as a friend. I am forever indebted to my parents for giving me the opportunities and

experiences that have made me who I am. They selflessly encouraged me to explore new

directions in life and seek my own destiny. This journey would not have been possible if

not for them, and I dedicate this milestone to them.

Looking back at all these years, I do miss the young girl who joined this programme with

aspirations and beliefs to change me, but powerfully I am blessed in search of truths from

interviewing to field notes to adapting and understanding scenarios, interrogations,

learning, re-thinking, reading, writing and re-writing and more to un-learning's I hope I

did carve a researcher out of me and I vow to take all my learning with a promise to be a

learner by whole life and be able to question and give back something to the university

and moreover to the society which has carved researcher out of me.

Date: SWATI SOAM