ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am at a volonte to submit this thesis for Ph.D. this moment but the journey had started long back in 1993 when my mentor Dr. S.N. Pawar, to whome I woe a lot persuaded me to go for the study of sociology and later on becoming a professor in the subject asked me to register for Ph.D. under his guidance. My awareness in the subject of sociology to my presentation in an international conference in Germany, on matang community, my Guide then Dr. S.N. Pawar had been instrumental in a great way. I cannot imagine this long journey without his persistent motivation to a man like me. My thanks to him are just a matter of formality but in a real sense no word of thank will take me out of his gratitude.

My father Dnyanadeo Ganoji Sakate had a long cherished dream to see me a doctor of the wind of Dr. Ambedkar quite often he use to say this to me at the formative years when I was a school going boy. It was he who gave me the dreams and while it is going to be realised he is no more I miss him immensely this moment but at the same time feel his being around me.

From the registration for Ph.D. in 1993, a little less than two decades of time I took till this date, I am aware is because of my engagements at many social movements, my fathers deaths in 1994 that almost paralised me, but again revising myself I kept engaged and have taken into consideration such a study on Matang Community covering the whole of Maharashtra from Kolhapur to Chandrapur and from Nanded to Jalagaon. My study in no way is regional because I felt no regional study would give a ‘Truthful’ and ‘Real’ picture of Matang community. I could afford to give more time to draw the ‘real’ picture of my community.

In order to come closer to the reality, I have wondered many districts, small villages, and have tried to know every face of matang man that would script the history of matang community. I have met and interviewed many great people like Baburao Bharaskar (Mumbai), Khadiwale (Udgir), Ghodajkar (Nanded), Anandrao Lokhande (Kolhapur),
Baburao Sakat (Mumbai), Tatyasaheb Bhingardeve (Vita), Deorao Kamble (Parbhani) and many others who had been with Dr. Ambedkar himself in some or the other way. My talk with them is the first hand account of issue related in this study which no book has registered. I thank them for giving me an insight to go beyond the printed text in the reference books I have referred.

As my journey won prolonging to unimaginable days my former guide Dr. S.N. Pawar himself guided me to my present guide Dr. R.B. Patil who gave me ultimatum to complete the study within time. As I am an unorganized person, it was my teacher and guide Dr. R.B. Patil who almost made me work around the clock and complete the study. It is only and only because of him I could and complete this work which had remained incomplete for such a long time, I thank him.

The head of the department of Sociology of Shivaji University Kolhapur Prof. Dr. Sarjerao Salunkhe and Dr. J.B. Ambekar, Mr. D. Shrikant, Dr. Salve R. N., Dr. Kendre B. N., Dr. Desai have supported me in my work. I thank all of them.

I am thankful to my mother Janabai and my bother Shivaji for being with me with such a great spirit, I thank my wife Pushpalata, my daughter Charulata, Son Harshwardhan, my father-in-law Maruti Patole, Mother-in-law Kantabai Patole, Brother-in-law Rahul who coped up with my moods and have remained with me firmly.

This study, being the study of community I had to interact with hundreds of people, leader of social organization, activists of political parties, they all have opened out to me in all possible manners which helped me to take my position in the study. This study would be nothing without their references. All the activists of my ‘Dalit Mahasangh’ have assisted me. I thank all of them. The employees of Annabhau Sathe Finance Corporation to take helped me in great deal. I thank them all.

Many of my friends had a strong desire to see me a Ph.D. scholar among them are Prin. Dr. Madhav Gadekar (Latur), Dr. Dilip Arjune (Jalna), Dr. Narayan Kamble (Latur), Prof. Shobha Ingale (Nanded), Dr. Smita Awachar, Dr. S. L. Gaikwad, Dr. B. S. Waghmare, Dr. Snehalata
Mankar (Aurangabad), Dr. Shraddha Patil (Kolhapur), Prin. Shivajirao Patil (Kolhapur), Prof. Sampatrao Madane (Karad), Dr. Babasaheb Ghatage (Kolhapur), Prof. Jayant Sathe (Beed) I feel it is become of their wishes I could complete this work, I thank them.

I am the integrated part of Rayat Shikshan Sanstha, Satara. The sanstha secretary Prin. J.G. Jadhav, joint secretary Prof. Gundappa Khot, My Principal Dr. Mohan Rajamane, my colleague Prof. Vaman Patil, Dr. Jagdale, Librarian Shri. Bhosale and the staff have helped me a lot, I thank them.

My friend Dadasaheb sanadi, who has helped me immensely to translate the work in English, this is only because of him I could submit my thesis in English language. My other friends and well wishers Mr. L albaji Ghate, Suresh Chavan, Ashok Lonkhande, Balasaheb Shinde, Vijay Rankhamb, Narendra Khandare, Gurudas Bavane, Shivaji Kawale, Netaji Kawale, Bharat Dhongade, Lala Naik, Prakash Naik, Ramesh Chandane who have supported me and had been always with me, I thank them all.

My colleague in movement, Laxuman Waghmare (Beed), Prakash Waidande (Karad), Vijay Chandane, Uttam Chandane, Bhaskar Sadakale, Subhash Bhdinrdeve, Dr. Prashant Lokhande (Sangli), Bharat Dhongade, Balwantrao Mane, Lala Naik, Sanjay Hegade, Pandurang Sonule, (Kolhapur), Anant Dorave (Latur), Baasaheb Tupsoundre (Usmanabad), Subhash Athawale (Jalana), Gorakh Pawar (Aurangabad), D. S. Dornarpelle, Ganpat Bhise (Parbhani), Kashinath Sulakhe-Patil, Dilip Solase, (Aahamadnagar), Sanjivan Wagh, Shivaji Shirsath, (Nashik), Uvaraj Thorat (Jalgaon), Prabakar Dhage (Chandrapur), Sanjeev Khilare, Ragu Khilare, Sunil Awaghad, Sandeep Alhat, Shrimant Mhaske (Solapur), Khandu Pawar, Deppak Jadhav, Anand Wairat, Ashok Lokhande, Vishnu Kasbe, Sunita Lokhande (Pune), Amar Gaikwad, Anil Kamble, Javed Naikawadi (Satara), Balasaheb Shinde, Ganesh Sabale (Mumbai), Prakash Jadhav, Drushtna Sathe (Thane), Vijay Rankham, Narendra Khandare, Navneet Mahajan (Yovtmal), Gurudas Bavane (Nagpur) etc. all helped me in this work.
Thus, the activists and ledar like Eknath Awad, Harish More, Sukumar Kamble, Ram Kamble, Ram Waghmare, V. N. Kapale, Ram Gundile, Ramesh Rakshe, Dadasaheb Sonavne, Unkal Sonavne, Bhausaheb Sonavne, Ravsaheb Antapurkar, Govindrao Matekar, Trimbak Kochwad, Manohar Gopale, Satyanarayan Rajhans, V. G. Reddy, G. S. Kamble, Narsing Ghokake, Mukund Waidande, Shankar Sathe all these my friends helped me.

This whole thesis is typed by Nandu Desai and Bipin Kamble who have made this thesis attractively and flawless, I thank them.

My driver Shri. Chagan Mane who drove me to Kolhapur and all over the state for my work for deserves my thanks.

I thank all of those unnamed but they too have proved vital in this thesis.

Thanks one and all.

Kolhapur,
Date: 31/03 / 2010

Mr. Machhindra D. Sakate