ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I hereby express a profound sense of gratitude towards Dr. (Mrs.) Q. F. Inamdar, my Research Guide for her persistent inspiration and guidance, without which this work would never have been possible. With her sincerity for the purpose, deep dedication to her work, her zeal and scholarly aptitude, coupled with a motherly touch, shall always remain my ideal.

I express my deep gratitude to Dr. F. A. Inamdar, Reader (Retd.), Department of English, South Gujarat University, Surat for his kind co-operation and support at every stage of my work. His encouragement, guidance and constant motivation helped in the completion of this thesis.

I am also thankful to my teachers particularly Prof. M. V. Kulkarni, Prof. and Head (Retd.), Government College of Arts and Science, Aurangabad; faculty of the Department of English, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University - A. G. Khan for guiding me and helping me in providing the material, Dr. Satish Deshpande and Dr. Mrs. Fernandes for their help. I am grateful to the Department of English, S.B. College, Aurangabad and to Dr. Santosh Bhoomkar, Prof. C. G. Bhaktul and Prof. P. G. Deshpande for their help and guidance, time to time.
My special thanks go to Shri. M. K. Patil, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru College, Aurangabad for providing me with the important books, right from the beginning of my Ph.D thesis. I would express my gratitude towards the University Library, Dr. B. A. M. U., Aurangabad, Government College Library, Aurangabad; the Department of English and Jaykar Library, Pune; the Department of English, J.N.U., the Department of English, Osmania University and C.I.E.F.L., Hyderabad and to Dr. Jagga Rao for meticulously providing me the material; Penguin Publications, New Delhi and Atlantic Publishers, New Delhi for their kind co-operation and support.

My heartiest thanks are due to Ms. Nayantara Sahgal, who is one of my research authors, for giving her valuable time and support and sharing her opinion about her novels and family structure which helped me a lot in analysing her works.

Last but not the least, I take this opportunity to thank my parents, Sri. Vinai Kumar Asthana and Dr. Chitra Asthana, my relatives and my close friends for their constant motivation and support without whom I would not have been what I am today.

( Shaily Asthana )