ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It gives me immense pleasure to express my deep sense of gratitude to Dr. B. N. Gophane, Associate Professor, Venutai Chavan College, Karad who developed and nurtured an interest in me for research. I doubt whether this piece of work would have been completed without his encouragement and excellent guidance. It's a great privilege that I had the opportunity of doing this research work under his prudent guidance. I appreciate his very careful editing and learnt a lot from his method of working and dedication for the discipline, which will be a constant source of inspiration for me. The words are indeed inadequate to express my intrinsic gratitude towards him.

I am extremely indebted to Dr. P. D. Raut, Professor and I/C Head, Department of Geography, Dr. D. H. Pawar and all the faculty members of Department of Geography, Shivaji University, Kolhapur, for his valuable advices and encouragement during the course of my study.

Without the blessing of my father Sauba and mother Sonai, the work would not have completed... I am indebted to them.

I wish to express my deep sense of gratitude to Shri. Vijaysinha Yadav President, Sou. Vijayadevi Yadav (Vahinisabez), Vice-President, and Secretary Shri. Ajay Thorat (Dada) of Shri Shahu Shikshan Prasarak Mandal, Peth Vadgaon for their encouragement during the course of my study. I am also thankful to Principal Dr. M. Y. Cholekar-Bachulkar and my colleagues M. A. Patil, D. J. Bhandare, S. P. Patil, A. L. Powar, P. P. Yadav, A. S. Chavan, S. M. Patil, all the faculty members and all administrative staff of Shri Vijaysinha Yadav Arts and Science College, Peth Vadgaon for their help.
I have no words to express my feelings to my friends Dr. C. U. Mane, Dr. A. B. Patil Dr. A. S. Patil, Dr. Shivaji Gaikawad, T. M. Rabade, Sachin Pol, Sandeep Wader, Amol Kole, Bajirao Shinde, Rajendra Hinge and Jaysing Bhandari for their consistent support and encouragement. I acknowledge the valuable help extended by my friend Sachin Hudale during completing this research work.

I take this opportunity to offer my grateful thanks to all officials in various grades who have been actively provided needful information for completion of this research work.

I extend my thanks to all the authorities of The Directorate, Census of India, Mumbai, Bar. Jaykar Library Pune University, Pune and Bar. Balasaheb Khardekar Library, Shivaji University, Kolhapur who extended me courteous help.

I offer my thanks to all the authorities of CobWeb Computers, Kolhapur, who has taken much pain for computer typing of this thesis with meticulous care and within time.

I am thankful to all those who have contributed to this research work.

- Shri. Balasaheb S. Jadhav