Acknowledgement

Let me express, at the outset, my profound gratitude to Dr. Sharad Jawadekar, my research guide, who encouraged me consistently, by giving invaluable guidance with much needed motivation during the prolonged process of study.

I take this opportunity to thank various authorities of MCCIA, DIC, WIMA, WMDC, MITCON, MCED, Bhagani Nivadita Bank, (Pune), Indian Merchant Chamber, Maharashtra Chambers of Commerce, Mumbai, NISBUD New Delhi, EDII Ahmedabad, community leaders and office bearers of community organizations, Parsi Panchayat, Oswal Bandhu Samaj, Maheshwari Sanstha, Swanand Mahila Mandal of Marwari Community, Sadhu Vaswani Mission, Pune. I am highly obliged to the librarian of Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune.

I extend my sincere thanks to all women entrepreneurs working in Pune and Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation area. Without their co-operation and support this work would not have been possible.

I also hereby acknowledge the guidance and co-operation extended by Principal A. B. Deshpande, as well as the staff of BMCC.

Thanks are due to Prof. (Mrs.) Jayashree Date of BMCC and Dr. (Mrs.) Shashi Chiplunkar of Agarkar Research Institute for their valuable guidance for statistical analysis. I am thankful to Dr. M. G. Kale for guidance and Mr. Vijay Metkar for his valuable help in typing and formatting of the dissertation.

I am also indebted to my husband Mr. Purushottam, son Hrishikesh and daughter Bageshree and my beloved mother Smt. Nalini Mahajan for encouraging and creating supportive environment at home.

Last but not the least I am thankful to all my friends and to all those persons and associations who helped me directly and indirectly in my research work.

Place: Pune
Date

Saroj Purushottam Gangurde