ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As I was preparing to write this page, numerous memories rushed in my mind, which is full of gratitude towards those that encouraged and helped me at various stages of this academic endeavor. It is my pleasure as well as my duty to express my feelings of gratitude towards them.

I express a deep sense of gratitude towards my guide Dr. T. M. Varat, Reader & Research Guide, Dept. of Geography, New Arts, Science & Commerce College, Ahmednagar. For his inspiring guidance, constructive Criticism, Valuable counsel, constant encouragement and immense sympathy during the preparation of this thesis. He was not only a source of straight to me in carrying this work but he was also a man of deep under standing about difficulties for which I will remember him for ever.

I am extremely grateful to Hon’ble Shri. Balasaheb Thorat (Agricultural and educational minister) Hon’ble Dr. Sudhir Tambe (M.L.C.) Chairman, S.B.V.P. Samaj, Sangamner, and Mr. Prataprao More, Secretary, S.B.V.P. Samaj. Sangamner, for their moral support, encouragement and persuasion for excellency. I am also thankful to fa. Harman Bakhar (founder of Indo-Garman watershed development programmer and Prof. V.M. Shewale (President Nisargayan) Who have shown keen interest in the research work and constructive suggestion at various stages in this investigation.

I am very much thankful to Prof. Vijay Karekur (Dean, Faculty of Moral and social sciences T.M.V., Pune) Dr. Shrikant Karlekar (Head. Department of Geography, S.P. College, Pune) Dr. B. M. Yarkhop (Head. Department of Geography T.M.V., Pune) for their excellent guidance and valuable suggestion.

I extend my sincere thanks to the principal S. K. Chaudhari, Prof. S. Y. Brahmane, Dr. M.B. Waman (Vice Principal), Prof. S. D. Nawale, Prof. P.B. Chaudhari, Prof. P.M. Gaikwad, and Shri Pansare G. N. ( O.S.) for their co-operation and helpful nature.

I am thankful to Baleshwar Panlot Committee, Sharda Mahila Mandal. Sarole Pathar. Mr. Balam Phatangare, C. B. Ghule, Mr. Madhav Nana Phatangare, Mrs. Asha Pokharkar, Mrs. Ahilyatai Ghule Mhaladevi Panlot Samiti and Mahila Mandal - Mhaswandi, VWC Mendhvan and Darewadi, selected beneficiaries and
villagers for their valuable co-operation and help rendered for completing this work. I would fail in my duties, if I do not mention the co-operation extended to me by Watershed Organization Trust, Ahmednagar. Regional office – Sangamner, Mr. Kulkarni, Mr. Prashant Kalaskar & Mr. Pansare, Government officials such as soil conservation forest department, Talathi, Gramsevak, Sarpanch, VWC members, SHG Members & farmers of selected villagers in Sangamner Taluka.

I am specially thankful to my friends and relative Prof. Lalita Mahale, Mr. Pradeep Sangale, Prin. D.D. Chaskar, Prof. Borude, Prof.Dhanwate, Mr. Shrinwas Pagdal, Mr. Balasaheb Umbarkar, Mr. Ashok Pawar, Mr. Nitin Pawar, Mr. Sanjay Dhoke, Sunil Dhoke, Mr. Dilip Phatangare, Mr. Vitthal Phatangare, Mr. Pravin Ghule, Mr. Dattatraya Phatangare, Mr. Sunil Pokharkar, Mr. Sanjay Phatangare, Mr. Babu Kolapkar, Mr. Uttam Raut, Mr. Machchindra Ghule, Prof. Sunil Narke for their support and help during the research work.

I have no words to express my deep sense of gratitude towards my beloved parents, my father Shri Vishram Pokharkar & Mother Sou.Lilavati Pokharkar, who have shown me the way of education & handwork. Sister Sou. Kalpana Katore, Mr. Laxman Katore, Nitin, Marur, Brother Jaisingh Pokharkar, Sou. Jyoti Pokharkar, Purva, Parth, Mr. Babanrao Bankar, Sou. Lilavati Bankar, Mr. Anil Bankar, Nitin Bankar & Smt. Kalpana Deshmukh for their constant encouragement.

I would like to express my sincere thanks towards my wife Jaya Pokharkar (Asst. Teacher Kanya Vidyalaya, Akole) and Daughter Prachi & Son Piyush for their constant inspiration throughout educational carrier.

I am extremely grateful to Shri. Kiran Nehulkar (Click Computer) for computerization of this thesis by using cartographic techniques carefully and quickly.

Dilip Pokharkar
Research Student