ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It gives me a great pleasure to present the work on “Agricultural Land Use and Land Degradation in Raigarh District (Maharashtra) – A Geographical Perspective.” It is my duty to extend my heartfelt thanks to my teachers, friends, colleagues, associates, students, family members and number of acquaintances and anonymous persons who extended ever-possible co-operation to make this study a reality.

It is my duty and proud privilege to express my deep sense of gratitude to my research guide Dr. D.G. Gatade, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Geography, A.S.C. College, Ramanandnagar (Burli), Tal. Palus, Dist. Sangli under whose valuable guidance and stimulating discussions during the course of investigation, I have completed this research work.

I would be dishonest, if I do not acknowledge the most valuable co-operation, encouragement, and suggestions offered by Prin. Dr. S.T. Gadade, Principal, Changu Kana Thakur Arts, Commerce and Science College, New Panvel. I would like to put across my genuine thanks to all the staff members especially, Prof. S. B. Yadav, Prof. A. K. Dixit, Prof. B. V. Jadhav, Prof. P. O. Parmar Prof. S. M. Hiremath and others.

I express my sincere thanks to Prof. Dr. K. C. Ramotra, Head, Dept. of Geography, Shivaji University, Kolhapur and all staff members of the Department. I also express my thanks to Shri. A. B. Patil, B.O.S. Chairman, Shivaji University, Kolhapur, for his kind co-operation during the research work.

I shall be failing in my duty if I do not extent my thanks to Prof. Dr. B. C. Vaidya, Head, Dept. of Geography, University of Pune and Dr. A. P. Kumbhar, Ex. Vice-Principal, Chh. Shivaji College, Satara. I feel overwhelmed with a deep sense of gratitude for their valuable guidance in the preparation of the thesis.

I convey my sincere thanks to Prof. S. S. Patil and Prof Mrs. M. A. Vaidya for proof reading and valuable suggestions. I would also like to thank Dr. Sameer Butala and Prof. N. C. Vadnere for their assistance in cartographic
work and suggestions for typing of the thesis. I owe my gratitude to Shri S.A. Patil for his timely help in completion of thesis.

I am grateful to Mrs. Gatade who helped me a lot in several ways for this work.

I extend my heartiest thanks to Prof. R. B. Deore, Prof. A.M. Patil, Prof. S.A. Patil, Prof. B. K. Shingare, Prof. Birare, Prof. A. N. Sinde, Prof. Thorat, Prof. Hazare and Shri Salvi for their kind co-operation in data collection. It is my great pleasure, to record a sense of gratitude to my father Shri Shaligram Narkhede, mother Shashikala Narkhede, wife Deepti, brother Rajendra and his wife Pranita, my son Harsh and daughter Anshuli for their encouragement and help.

Place: Kolhapur

Date: / /2010

Shri Deepak S. Narkhede
M. A., B. Ed.
Assistant Professor,
Department of Geography,
C. K. Thakur A. C. S. College,
New Panvel, Dist. Raigarh