ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The work would have never been accomplished without the invaluable guidance, continuous encouragement and keen interest of intellectual research guide Dr. Dadasaheb Sudamrao Gajhans to whom my heartfelt thanks are due. Throughout my study tenure, I learned many things from him not only pertaining to my research but also other than research which are useful for my future life. He has contributed enormously to the genesis of this doctorate. These few sentences are not enough to express my gratitude about my research guide. I was fortunate to be a student of him.

My sincere thanks are due to Prof. Dr. U.B. Pathre, BOS Chairman and Dr. M. V. Suryawanshi, Head, Dept. of Geography, Dr. B.A.M. University, Aurangabad, Dr. Satish Jadhav, Head, Dept. of Geography, Dr. Sanjay Patil, Mr. V. M. Waghmare sir and Mr. D.V. Patait sir for their critical suggestions and encouragement.

I am also grateful to Padmabhushan Dr. Badrinarayanji Barwale, President, Mahyco Research Foundation Trust, Jalna and Dr. Usha Zehr, Secretary, Mahyco Research Foundation Trust, Jalna for their constant support.

My sincere and heartfelt thanks are due to Dr. Kavita Prashar, Principal, Dr. P. M. Kokne, Vice-principal, B. R. Barwale College, Jalna, Dr. Suresh Sandikar, Advisor, B. R. Barwale College, Jalna, my all senior colleagues Dr. Bhagwansingh Dhosbal, Dr. Suresh Kangne, Prof. Priyadarshan Bhavre, Dr. Kalidas Suryawanshi, Prof. Sandip Patil, Prof. Shashikant Chaudhari, Dr. Baliram Katare, Prof. Vilas Bhutekar, Prof. Sambhaji Kamble, Dr. Ravindra Bore, Dr. Bhushan Nafde, Dr. Sanghvikar mam, Dr. Shama Anbhule, Dr. Nishikant Lokhande, Dr. Ravindra Shimpi, Prof. Om Chavan, Prof. Madav Hebade, Librarian Dr. Kalyan Kumbhar Sir, Prof. Maskhe and Prof. Miss Muley Mam for their motivation and moral support.

I am grateful to non-teaching staff of B. R, Barwale College, Jalna especially Kulkarni Sir (OS), Tavrawala Sir, Miss. Gauri (Acc.), Ajay Joshi, Lonkar Sir, Hivrekar Sir, Vatjnathe Dighe, Vinod Pawar, Dhande Tai and Ram mama for their cooperation and constant encouragement throughout my research work.
The number of person to whom I owe deep thanks for the various favours received during the course of this work including my colleagues Dr. Tukaram Gajar, Dr. Sachin Jadhav, Dr. Ravi Jadhav, Sandip Savant, Dr. R. K. Kale, Dr. V. T. Kale, Dr. Sandip Pathrikar, Dr. Ashok Kakde, Abhishek Dhembre, Sudhir Deshpande, Dhotre Sir, Deepak Agrwal and Tushar Laddha for their help, inspiration and best wishes.

I am indebted to my many friends for providing constant encouragement and stimulation during my research work. I am especially grateful to all time friends Anand Paigavhane, Vinod Ratnaparkhe, Gopal Thombre, for their help and motivations they helped me in all ways for completion of this assignment.

Last and most important, I am grateful to my parents Mr. Narayan G. Shinde and Mrs. Nirmala N. Shinde for their belief in me, with persistent support and encouragement. Though my mother is a housewife without her support and motivation I could not reach up to this highest achievement. Whatever I have done since childhood all credit goes to my beloved mother which was her dream. I owe to my other family members my younger brother Dr. Vishal and younger sisters Deepali for their constant motivation and providing loving environment.

Finally I thank all of them who have directly or indirectly supported me throughout my research tenure.

Nandkishor Narayanrao Shinde