ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A feeling of great satisfaction dawns upon me today while I submit this thesis for which I am greatly indebted to respected Dr. S.N. Karlekar. But for his teachings, I would not have learnt to ask the questions ‘Why’ and ‘How’ and to search answers for the same. It is just because of his constant persuasion and effective monitoring and ‘of course’, his able guidance that this thesis sees the light of today.

It was the warm affection of Mrs. Aparna S. Karlekar which helped me come out of the stress I experienced at times while this work was in completion. I am greatly indebted to her as well.

I would sincerely thank the Principal, the teaching and the non-teaching staff of Sydenham College of Commerce and Economics, Mumbai without whose support the completion of this work would not have been possible. Thanks are also due to the Principal S.P. College, Pune and the teaching and non-teaching staff of the Geography Department for making the necessary facilities available to me for the said research work.

I would like to seize this opportunity to thank my teachers Dr. (Smt) L.N. Dhavlikar, Dr. S. W. Gaikwad and Dr.(Mrs) Veena U. Joshi for their constant encouragement and support. This work would not have been possible without the help of my dear friends, Dr. T.A. Shitole, Dr. Surendra Thakurdesai, Mr. Sanjay Jagtap, Mr. Abhinav Kurkute and Dr. Yogesh M. Pisolkar who, I have always found by my side to help me in my difficult hours. I would like to put on record and acknowledge the help and support of Mr. Shivaji Panmand, Mr. Ajit Durgade and Mr. Chandrakant Chavan as well.

A word of thanks to the locals of Kelshi and Anjarle for their great hospitality which made the field visits very comfortable. I would also thank
my dear students from the Geography department at the Ramkrishna More College; Pune, who were always a helping hand whenever required.

I would be failing in my duties if I do not acknowledge the cooperation of the Maharashtra Maritime Board; Mumbai, and the Indian Metrological Departments Pune office, for the data on creek bathymetry and the climate respectively. Thanks are sincerely due to the National Remote Sensing Agency (N.R.S.A.); Hyderabad, for making the Satellite image of the study area available. I would also thank Mr. Sham Wadvankar from the C.W.P.R.S.; Pune, Dr. Hrishikesh Samant of the St. Xavier College; Mumbai, for their invaluable help and the Chemistry laboratories at Pune University and S.P.College, Pune, for the Infra red Spectroscopy.

I also thank Mr. Sham Rege of ‘S.R. Enterprises’ for his assistance in typing and type set expertise’s.

Completion of this work required a lot of solitude which means missing many hours from my family, my parents, Shri Popatrao R. Devne and Mrs. Asha P. Devne because of whom I am what I am today, my wife, Mrs. Tejaswini Devne and our son Master Atharva Devne whose loving support kept me going as they provided me the most conducive atmosphere for this work. I express my deepest appreciation for their understanding.

This work is an outcome of help and co-operation from several other people who have directly or indirectly been associated with this research work. I would like to express my gratitude to all those who offered their advice and gave me encouragement in this endeavour.

Manojkumar P.Devne

XIII