ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It is a great pleasure to acknowledge the help received from persons and institutions in the course of this study. First and foremost, I am profoundly grateful to Dr. Y.S. Damle, whose incisive understanding of Sociology has steered me through my fumbling approaches to the subject.

I wish to express my thanks to Dr. D.N. Dhanagare, who encouraged me with his valuable suggestions. I also express my thanks to Dr. Shoitie for his helpful suggestions and constant encouragement throughout this course of investigation.

I am also thankful to Dr. Ramanamma, for her cheerful help which enabled me to complete this work. I wish to acknowledge the help provided by the other teaching and the non-teaching staff of the department of Sociology.

I am grateful to the University Grants Commission which awarded me the research Fellowship. I wish to express my thanks to the staff of Jayakar Library, who always willingly helped me. I take this opportunity to thank Anant Bhalerao, editor of the daily "Marathwada" and Shree Bhagwant Deshmukh, for making the necessary
literature available to me. I also thank my respondents who patiently helped me in supplying the necessary information.

I am thankful to Mr. Rao, not only for the neat typing but also for his keen interest in my work.

I sincerely thank all my friends, who were always a source of warmth, which enabled me to struggle through various difficulties during the entire research period. I am also thankful to my family members without whose endurance and patience this work would not have been possible.

SWATI SHIKHAPADEKAR