PREFACE

So the saying goes: "arrange a marriage and build a house," thus, suggesting the difficulties, misfortunes, underestimates and finally the frustrations attendant upon such things. To this a new dimension may be added thus: "arrange a marriage, build a house and write a viable thesis," and see the pitfalls, hardships and frustrations involved.

The dynamics of research is too many in the Indian setting. The academic prejudices, the status of topic one chooses, the prestige of the departmental associations, the monetary benefits, the availability of facilities, the intellectual vistas, commitments and perspectives, and on a personal level, the responsibilities of joint family, the demands of siblings, the influence of peer-groups, the usefulness of the subject for job-hunting, and lastly, but not the least, the fulfilling of an important ashram of matrimony--easiest in India--are all factors which play an important role in deciding the quality, content and acceptability of the thesis. The more disgusting features, such as food, accommodation, an atmosphere of serene quiet and institutional tranquility add to the mental equanimity, negatively or positively, of the research student. When
all these hurdles are crossed over, one has the audacity to say that 'I did it, I did it.'

The first and foremost gratitude which I owe is to my teacher Dr. Y.B.Damle, who caught me raw and moulded me into a finished product. If there is anything worthwhile in the pages that follow, it is due to him and the outcome in the form of thesis is—what we call in the Indian tradition—bhiksha bestowed upon me by him. All the imperfections in the work are due to me alone. It is, indeed, a trying period for the teacher as well as the student to withstand the academic pressures and prejudices with moral fortitude to successfully bringing it to a conclusion.

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Truly—it is verily said—research is a social process.

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