ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A research work, even if carried out by an individual researcher, is an outcome of concerted efforts of great many. This thesis could not have been written and would not now be completed without the efforts of a very large number of peoples to whom I owe and so offer my heartfelt thanks:

To my research guide Dr. Sharmishtha Matkar. She was major source of inspiration as I am blessed with her patience, encouragement and learning. The exceptional research ability and intellectual depth possessed by her remains goal towards which I shall continue to strive.

To Dr. Nilesh Danghat, Professor and Head, Department of Economics, the Research Centre in Economics, Prof. Ramkrishna More Arts, Commerce and Science College Akurdi, for his cooperation extended to complete this work. Similarly, Dr. Rohini Sahni, Head and Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Savitribai Phule Pune University. Mr. Vishal Gaikwad, Assistant Professor and Dr. Prameshwar Yadav, Assistant Professor, motivated me in the process of my research work.

I wish to thank the non-teaching staff of Prof. Ramkrishna More Arts, Commerce and Science College, Akurdi for their timely assistance in the course of my research work.

To the staff members of Gokhale Institute Library, Wadia Library of Ferguson College, Pune, for their co-operation in relation to collection of information from various sources.

To Mr. J. C. Sharma, statistical consultant, for his guidance in the field of technical and statistical application in preparation of research work.
To the staff of N.G. Acharya and D.K. Marathe College for being there with a kind word and/or a helping hand in some of the most difficult patches of my journey: Principal Dr. Vidygauri Lele, Vice Principals Prof. Amita Lal, Dr. B.N. Gaikwad, and all my colleagues.

Also, very special thanks must go to Dr. S.B Kadam, Dr. Jagannath Khemnar and Dr. Anita Kumar for their industrious, meticulous editing work.

I am also thankful to College Librarian Prof. Mangesh Ghodake and library staff members for helping me at the time of collecting information from various sources from the library.

Finally, to my Mother Rukhamina, Father Sukhadeo, Wife Supriya and daughters Avanti and Vallabhi for constant invigorating me physically and mentally throughout this study. To my Friends Deepak, Dhananjay, Anil, Vijayanand, Sanjay, and R J Chavhan for assuring me that I can be all I want to be.