ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Is me a great pleasure to acknowledge my indebtedness to various persons, without whom this thesis would not then be the light of the day. I am deeply grateful to Dr. S.P. Sathe, my guide, for his kind and indefatigable assistance with which he guided me through my entire work. His critical encouragement, and deep and lively interest in this thesis, I would have found it extremely difficult to complete my thesis.

I am extremely grateful to the member-secretary of the Indian Institute of Social Science Research, New Delhi, for awarding me a fellowship during June 1988 to April 1990, enabling me to commence my studies.

I am also grateful to the staff of the Record Room of the District Court, for giving me permission to scan through the court records and collect the necessary material. In this laborious and consuming job, I was given courteous and patient assistance by the staff of the Record Room of the District Court, which I am extremely obliged to them. I am also grateful to District Judges, who, while participating in the workshop organized by the ILS, Law College, Pune, in Nov. 1989, their valuable time for sharing their views on family law, particularly on maintenance. These discussions opened up new dimensions of women's problem and
thus helped me to incorporate relevant observations in my work.

I am thankful to the ICSSR, Data Processing Centre at Gokhale Institute, Pune for giving me full co-operation in analysing the data. In this context I extend my thanks to Prof. D.B.Sardesai, Prof. M.P.Khare, Shri.R.D.Divekar and Mrs. A.A.Kher of the centre. I extend my thanks individually to Mr. Raja Chipalunkar for helping me in analysing the data on computer.

I shall be failing in my duty if I do not acknowledge my gratitude to the Governing Council of the ILS, Pune, who showed care and concern for my work by extending the facilities like the use of library, computer and allotting me a study room exclusively for pursuing my work on this thesis.

I acknowledge my deep appreciation for the library staff and non teaching staff of the ILS Law College for extending to me the fullest co-operation in various ways. My thanks are also due to the library staff of the Jayakar Library and Women Studies Centre of Poona University, Gokhale Institute, Pune, Indian Institute of Education, Pune, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Bombay and the Indian Law Institute, New Delhi.

I can't forget my student friends Chetana Sardershmukh, Vrinda Deshpande, A. Pandurang Rao, Umesh Nagarkar, Leena Dharod, Smita Soman and Suneeta Phadnis who helped me in a number of ways to complete this work.
I also wish to extend thanks to Mrs. S.Gurjar, Mr.B.Kadam, Mr. S.Chitnis, Mr. S.A.Naphade and Mr.M.F.Darp who did the data entry work. Let me thank my erstwhile student Ravi Joshi for taking up the binding work of the thesis.

Last but not the least, I offer my heartfelt gratitude to my parents, family members, all my friends, and my colleagues at the Department of Law, University of Poona for their encouragement and support in moments of despair. Several discussions on various issues with my friends enriched my thought and helped me formulate and present my views more precisely and clearly. I shall remain indebted to all of them.

Pune
Date: 16-6-1992

(Jaya Sagade)