ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The thesis is successfully completed due to the efforts and involvement of many individuals at different stages. I would like to thank every one of them.

I am deeply indebted to Dr. Ashok Kumar, Reader, School of social Science, S.R.T.M. University not only for his appropriate guidance but for 'tolerating' me, as a student, rather my erratic time schedule, involving emergency clinical work. His approach of cutting my 'Medical ideas' to 'Sociological size' was a feature of our association.

The things would have remained at imaginary or manuscript level had my friend Shri Malhar Lathkar, not put them into computer and then printing them out. Realizing that to thank Malhar, is to create turbulence in our friendship, it is hard to resist myself from including his name in 'Acknowledgements'. The tireless efforts of his assistant Ms Kalpana Deshpande deserves not only a word of gratitude but appreciation too.

I am thankful to my father-in-law, Shri Vasantrao Rahegaonkar whose inspiration always helps me to carry on in the field of academics.

I take this opportunity to thank Dr. Krishna Lavekar, Presently Hon. District Magistrate, Latur, Dr. A.P.Kulkarni, Professor and Head of the Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, Govt. Medical College, Nanded, Dr. Chandrakant Pergulwar, Additional District Health Officer, Zilla Parishad, Nanded, Dr. Kranti Rayemane, colleague Gynaecologist from Aurangabad who extended their cooperation in providing me abundant literature.

I will be failing in my duties if I do not remember Dr. B.C.Barik, Professor and Head of School of Social Sciences, S.R.T.M. University, Nanded for his timely inputs during the course of this study.
I thank one of my well-wishers, Dr. Harihar Kulkarni for his editorial assistance.

Last but not the least credit goes to all the one hundred General Medical Practitioners of Nanded City, who spent their time and responded to rather lengthy questionnaire schedule with tremendous patience.

Finally, I cannot forget the contributions made by wife Seema and son Vineet, in a number of ways, perhaps the more apparent being less time I could spend with both them.

Nanded                      Kishore Atnurkar
Date

...