ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I think research is a part in the journey of life; meeting number of people who guide and supports in getting better results. This is what I have also experienced and I take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to all of them who have played significant role during this journey.

First, I express my deep gratitude towards my research supervisor Dr. Shahida Ansari, who has encouraged and guided in every stage of research and personal life. It must not be sounding exaggerating, mentioning here, as she is my true mentor in every matter, and it would have not been possible to complete this thesis without her constant encouragement, meticulous attention, critical editing, valuable comments and undivided guidance.

I acknowledge the University Grants Commission, New Delhi for providing me a Junior Research Fellowship/Senior Research Fellowship (UGC-JRF/SRF) which has made this work possible.

I am very much thankful to my guru Dr. Ismail Kellellu (Retired Head of the Department of AIHC and Archaeology, Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University), who has taught me Indian Archaeology during my post-graduation in such way that, it has left an impact on forming a mindset to pursue a compact understanding of the culture, heritage and archaeology. This has laid a foundation for me to pursue on Indian archaeology through Ph.D. program. He remains as one of the source of motivation from whom I learned how to be a good human being.

I thank Prof. V. P. Bhatta former Director and Prof. Vasant Shinde the present Vice-Chancellor, Deccan College, Pune, who have provided all necessary facilities during my research period at the Institution. I thank the former heads of our department; Profs. B. C.
Deotare, R. K. Mohanty, Sheila Mishra and present head Prof. S. G. Deo for being supportive and encouraging me as a researcher.

I am very thankful to Prof. Preety A. Trivedi my teacher and presently Head of the Department, AIHC and Archaeology, RTM, Nagpur University, who has allowed me to carry out research on terracotta art objects that are displayed in the Department Museum. She has kindly helped me whenever I needed support during my research work. She was the first from whom I come to know about Archaeology.

I thank to Dr. P. S. Meshram (Former HOD of AIHC and Archaeology, RTM, Nagpur University), Dr. Priyadarshi Kho bragade, Mr. Saharkar and Dr. Khedikar (Department of AIHC and Archaeology, RTM, Nagpur University) for supporting while I was carrying out my research work.

I express my sincere thanks to Mr. Sanjay Patil, Director and Dr. Maya Patil Ex-Deputy Director of Department of Archaeology and Museum, Govt. of Maharashtra for granting permission to carry out the study on terracotta art objects that were stored and displayed in the Archaeology Department of Nagpur division and Central Museum of Nagpur. I also thank the Ex-Assistant Director Dr. Anand Bhoyar and present Assistant Director Dr. Virag Sontakke of Department of Archaeology, Nagpur for their help. Especially, Dr. Sontakke has helped me in many possible ways during documentation of terracotta art object in his department. Also many thanks to Mr. Vilas Wahane, Assistant Director of Pune Division; Jaya Wahane, Registration officer and Aarti Aale, Technical Assistant, Mumbai, for their help in various way.

My special thanks are to Dr. Shrikant Ganvir and Mr. Gopal Joge. They were always ready to help me whenever I needed an academic interaction and updating the research ideas, problems and thoughts. These academic interactions and suggestions have helped in generating my thought processes. They are like my academic motivators as well as true critics.
I thank Dr. Alok Kanungo (IIT Gandhinagar), who has always kept a track of my research progress and gave necessary suggestions whenever required.

My special thanks are to Dr. Manohar Naranje for providing his surface collections of terracotta art objects from Adam. I also thank Dr. Kanchana Bhaisare for providing photographs and necessary information on terracotta art objects of Hamlapuri.

I thank Dr. Gurudas Shete and Dr. Reshma Sawant (ASI) for providing references to relevant literatures and suggestions.

Special thanks are to Dr. Pankaj Goyal and Mr. Arjun R, the initial draft of this thesis was corrected and commented by them. My thanks are to Dr. Yogesh Mallinathpur (Anna) and Dr. Shantanu Vaidya for their valuable suggestion and discussion on the research work at various stages.

Special thanks are also to Mr. Hemant Dalvi who has extended technical expertise in making tables and other work; to Mr. Suken Shah who has spent good time in discussing my research topic, organising my references and diacritical marks. Thanks to Dr. Toshabanta Padhan and Dr. Shivaji Kshirsagar for their necessary help.

Thanks to Mr. Gajanan Katade (ASI) and Dr. P. S. Joshi for their valuable suggestions and support.

Thanks to Emeritus Professor K. Paddayya, Prof. P. P. Joglekar, Dr. Abhijeet Dandekar, Dr. Kantikumar Pawar and all teaching staff of my department who have always encouraged and created positive working environment.

My special thanks to the Deccan College Librarian Dr. Trupti More and all the library staff members, especially Dhananjay Survase, Dattatray Dalvi, Samadhan Shinde, Bhagyashri Kamble, Pallavi Challare, Sanjivani Mankar, Dhanashri Sarpale, Ganesh Phuge, Jadhav for extending their services through providing me reading materials and
making accessible to photocopies of the same. I am also thankful to the library staffs of
the Department of AIHC and Archaeology, RTM Nagpur University and Anjeneri
(Nashik) for providing me books and journals whenever requested.
Thanks to Shri. C V Joshi, Registrar, Deccan College for providing official help. Thanks
also to Dr. Vishwanath Kamble, Amit Pendam, Nilesh Jadhav, Mrs. A Sonawane, Mrs.
Hole, Shri. J. Kulkarni, Shyam Walke, Ambavale, Vijay Kute, Hanumant Bhandare, Shri.
Ghanekar, Sunil Jadhav, Satish Banger and Yogesh Pardesi. These people have helped
me in official/non-official work. Thanks also go to Shri. Harshavardhan Pijurkar of
Central Bank of India, Deccan College campus branch, Pune for his friendly nature and
fast bank services saved my time.

All of my friends need a special mentioning; they have made my life beyond academics;
Amardeep Barsagade, Kailash Yade, Banti Mahapatra, Somnath Shinde (Shastri),
Mohana R, Shyam Borker, Sitaram Toraskar, Arvind Asabe, Sambhaji Jadhav, Pratik
Savle (Scooty baba/happy), Aparna Kulkarni, Tejal, Shikha Sharma, Umesh Mendhe,
Narendra Parmar, Reza Abbas, Shrayesh Jagtap, Burhan, Jyotirm Deshmukh, Ajmal
Shah, Pramod Ramteke, Pramod Chauhan, Ashwin Meshram, Kim, Chandrakant
Kalvanker, Vijay Sarde, Kanchi Koch, Nikhil Das, Soumyaranjan Sahoo, Akash Khatana,
Yashpal Singh, Vindhyavashini, Vijay Mishra, Ravi Kumar, Dilip Kumar, Devender
Singh Maan, Pura Koji, Ravishanker Gupta, Gracy, Chandragupta Mishra, Barik,
Saurabh Singh, Aasif Bhat, Jose, Udaya Kumar, Phanish Babu, Rahul Mahesker, Swapnil
Moon, Yousef Fallahiyan, Premananda, Aryawansa, Ananda, Mani Kandan, Himanshu,
Opino, Yogesh Yadav, Averdeep, Chandrakant Joge, Vineet Gavare and Praveen Kumar.

Thanks to Mr. Madhav Nikam who has helped by attending to my laptop malfunctioning
on timely basis.

A special thanks to Maushi, Mohan Bhaiya, and Bhabhi for serving food regularly,
otherwise I would have deprived from fundamental source of energy for living in the
college.
Today, whatever I am, it is for my parents constant moral support, emotions, love and affections in all crucial stages of my life. My heartily and soulful thanks are to my parents and I dedicate this thesis to them. My dear sister Poonam who has made a lot of sacrifices for her brother’s success. My family is my true strength and the credit of my achievements goes to them.

Finally, I would like to thank ancient terracotta art makers of Vidarbha, whose art has inspired me to work on this topic of research.

Mohan S. Pardhi
Date: 13th May 2017