ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am deeply indebted to my Supervisor Prof. Aslam Mahmood for guiding the thesis to completion. The personal attention, encouragement and guidance I received from him at different stages of this work were the real assets. Professor S. K. Thorat has been a constant source of encouragement and advice to me in various ways. I would also like to thank the entire faculty of CSRD for the help and suggestions I received from them.

I benefitted immensely through discussions with a large number of scholars outside the university as well. Prof. O.P. Mathur, Dr. P.U. Asnani, Dr. Darshini Mahadevia, Dr. Chetan Vaidya, Dr. Harbans Gill, Mr. R.B. Patel are a few who provided valuable ideas and clarifications whenever required. They were ever willing to help me by sharing their perspectives, experiences and research results. Thanks are also due to the Municipal Commissioner and the staff of Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation for sharing their valuable information. They all helped me also by providing information, research documents and necessary details regarding projects and programmes. The office of the Gujarat Municipal Finance Board was exceptionally cooperative in providing published as well as unpublished information. I am also overwhelmed by the response of the officers of various urban local bodies in Gujarat who provided me the data from their office records. Mr. Rajendra Joshi, of SAATH helped me with the fieldwork and explained to me the recent developments in the city and the economics and politics of slum improvement.

Thanks are due to Dr. O.P. Bohra for reading the entire draft and coming up with several useful suggestions. I would also like to thank Mr. K. Varghese for helping me with data processing. Thanks are also due to Mr. Chinmay Nath for helping me with cartography.

I would like to thank ICSSR for funding this research.

My husband often took the liberty of commenting on the methodology of statistical analysis and questioning my confidence in some of the results. On the whole, his contribution has been positive.

Words fail to express gratitude to my mother and brother for their consistent support.

Finally, my heart goes to my daughter for bearing with her mother who remained endlessly busy at the computer.

Debolina Kundu