ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

At the onset let me take this opportunity to acknowledge the grace of God without whom this work could not have successfully accomplished.

It is difficult to overstate my gratitude to my Ph.D. supervisor, Prof. Dr. Mrs. N. D. Bhalerao for inspiring and continues support. She has not only motivated me to complete this research work but also generated continuous process of research-oriented thinking within myself. I am indeed very grateful to her.

I would like to thank Prof. Dr. D. Sathe, Head of the department of Economics, Pune University for her encouragement and for providing me an opportunity to work and use all the facilities in the department required for completing this work.

I cherish my long and intimate association with friends who have made my stay in Pune real fun whenever the going was difficult.

I extend my thanks especially to my parents, brother, sisters and my in-laws for constantly encouraging me and giving their unstinted and unconditional support during this research work.

Finally, my thanks go to my students in Economics department in Islamic Azad University, Urmia Branch in Iran, who encouraged me to continue my education, getting more knowledge and being a student for ever.