ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am grateful to Poojya Dr. Sharnbaswappa Appa, Mahadasoha Peethadhipati, Sharnbasveshwar Samsthan, Gulbarga for providing me inspiration and opportunity to enhance my learning by allowing to enroll for Ph.D.

I would like to express my deep and sincere gratitude to my guide, Professor Dr. U.M. Deshmukh, Head of the Department of Operations Management, SIBER, Kolhapur. His wide knowledge and his logical way of thinking have been of great value for me. His understanding, encouraging and personal guidance, support throughout this work have provided a good basis for the present thesis. He has been a great enabler and an able guide in pursuing my doctorate degree with useful insights and keen understanding of the subject. In fact it is an honor to be his Ph.D. student. I appreciate all his contributions of time and ideas to make my Ph.D. experience productive and stimulating. The joy and enthusiasm he has for his research was contagious and motivational for me, even during tough times in the Ph.D. pursuit.

I wish to express my cordial appreciation to Dr. V.S. Patil, Former Dean, Faculty of Commerce, Shivaji University, Kolhapur for his valuable instructions and suggestions during the initial stages of this research work.

I also wish to express my appreciation to Dr. S.S. Mahajan, Head, Department of Commerce & Management, Shivaji University, Kolhapur who made many valuable suggestions and gave constructive advice.

I owe my most sincere gratitude to Professor Dr. M.M. Ali, SIBER and Professor Dr. S.G. Vibhute, SIBER who gave me the opportunity to take up research work and gave me untiring help during my difficult moments. Their immense help in offering valuable guidance all along the course of research, their ideals and concepts have had a remarkable influence on my entire career in the field of research and teaching.
I warmly thank Dr. S. D. Bhoite, SIBER, Kolhapur for his constant support, encouragement, valuable advice and friendly help. Every conversation I had with Dr. Bhoite helped me to learn more on the work.

I wish to express my warm and sincere thanks Late Prof. A. D. Shinde, Founder Director, SIBER and Prof. R. A. Shinde, Secretary, SIBER, Kolhapur for their help.

I wish to express my cordial appreciation to Dr. R. V. Kulkarni, Director, SIBER Kolhapur for his valuable instructions and suggestions.

I am grateful to Dr. K. N. Ranganath Sastry, Retired Professor and HOD of Agriculture Economics, UAS, Dharwar and UAS Bangalore for his insightful suggestion and advice which laid foundation for this research work.

My warm thanks are due to Nagaraj Pani – friend and classmate for being by my side extending moral support, encouragement and helping with knowledge resources whenever necessary.

I remember the generosity and encouragement of the late Prof. B. B. Patil, former Director Doddappa Appa Institute of MBA, Gulbarga who would have welcomed this academic study.

My sincere thanks are due to Prof. C. B. Javali, and Prof. M. C. Kunachi, Sharnbasveshwar College for their timely suggestion and remarks to make this work better.

I wish to thank Dr. M. N. Samanthray and R. Basavaraj for their guidance in statistical analysis, being of great help in analyzing and making useful suggestion in bringing out meaningful reports as part of this research work. Their kind support and guidance have been of great value in this study.

This thesis would not have been possible without the help of Mahesh Patil. I am most grateful to him for designing and bringing out the research work in excellent format and bearing with many revisions that had to be done.
I want to add my special thanks to Mallinath Hemadi for his help in making my research surveys organized and productive.

I also wish to thank Rajaram Patil, Raju Tegghalli, Shripad V and H. Sharanesh for their friendly support and encouragement throughout this work.

I would like to express my heartiest thanks to Shrinath Mukka for his timely help and cooperation.

During this work I have collaborated with many colleagues and friends for whom I have great regard, and I wish to extend my warmest thanks to all those who have helped me.

It was my late father’s dream that I should progress in my studies to the highest degree which has materialized now. I deem this as blessings coming true. My special gratitude is due to my mother, brother and sisters for their loving support.

I owe my loving thanks to my wife Geeta, my son Vedanth and daughter Neeharika. Without their encouragement and understanding it would have been impossible for me to finish this work.

For any errors or inadequacies that may remain in this work, of course, the responsibility is entirely my own.

Shivadattagouda S. Honnalli