ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Dr. N.M. Shah, M.Sc., Ph.D. and to Dr. J.P. Trivedi, M.Sc., Ph.D. under whose kind guidance the work described in this thesis was carried out.

I am deeply grateful to Rev. Fr. Herbert A. de Souza, S.J. for his kind interest and the facilities offered me for research.

I also thank the Governing Body of the Xavier Kelavani Mandal (Gujarat) for defraying the expenses incurred during the course of this work.

Indravadan D. Shah