Preface

While the study of trade union leadership is useful in many ways, in understanding the various aspects of modern industrial society, it was not only the utilitarian aspect of the subject which drew me to it. Rather, it was the exciting and demanding role of trade union leaders, which provided the motive force in the selection of this study.

The study also made me aware of the importance of cooperation in human endeavour. The Present study owes much to the cooperation of number of persons, big and small, who have directly or indirectly helped in bringing it to the present shape.

First of all, I am deeply grateful to my guide Dr. Taraben Patel, Professor and Head, Department of Sociology, Gujarat University, for her able guidance and critical comments, as also her generosity in sparing time for me. I am thankful to my colleague Dr. Vimal Shah for his constant help in the sphere of methodology. I have greatly benefitted by his comments and suggestions in the analysis and presentation of data. My friend and colleague Shri Dhirubhai Desai has not only played the role of a 'tension-manager' by providing necessary and stimulating diversions during the discussion of various aspects of the topic, but also in carefully going through the arduous job of proof-reading. I am also thankful to Prof. N.R. Sheth for his critical comments on the various aspects of the study. To the large number of trade union
leaders-outsiders and insiders, formal and informal—of the trade unions included in the study, I owe a deep sense of gratitude, for without their willing cooperation this study would not have been possible. Lastly, for efficient and speedy typing of this thesis, I am thankful to Mr. Krishna Moorthy.

Edwin Masihl