ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This thesis would not have been possible but for the help and encouragement of various people.

I feel great pleasure in offering respect to my guide Dr. (Mrs) Anjana. P. Desai, Professor and Head, Department of Geography, Gujarat University, Ahmedabad for her intense guidance, tremendous help and care in research work with inspiration for the development of efficiency and confidence in my life. Her visionary outlook and regular suggestions have helped me to channelise my efforts in the right direction. Her moral support and blessing ensured the successful completion of the thesis.

I express my thanks to my respected teachers, Dr. K.M. Kulkarni, Dr. N.G. Dikshit, Dr (Mrs).Manjula Dave for providing academic environment at all times.

For constructive criticism and suggestions of my friends Dr. Gautam Kumar Bhattacharya, (SIRD), Ahmedabad, Sudha Ravindranath,(ISRO) Bangalore, Dr. Surashree Saha, Ahmedabad, Aparajita De, Ahmedabad. I am highly indebted to them.

I am thanking to Dr. Avantika. Prajapati and Mrs. Harsha Shukla, Department of Geography, Gujarat University, Ahmedabad for their helpful suggestions and encouragement throughout the work. I am highly thankful to my Geography Department, especially to Prof. V.C Sheth, Prof. K.J. Patel, Niyati Mistry and Falgunai
Shah for their suggestions and technical assistance in the field of cartography and all academic discussion.

My thanks are also due to Mr. Manish Bhardwaj, Mr. Gopalkrishna Solanki for editing the data processing and Mr. Sajan, Mr. Sharad Sharma and Ms. Urmi Sharma for their help and suggestion in developing computer programme.

I wish to extend my sincere thanks to my friends and colleagues of Government Arts College, Gandhinagar (Gujarat), who gave moral support for completing this work.

It gives me great pleasure to put on record assistance of various Government organizations for providing relevant information and data for this study. I express my thanks to Directorate of Economic and Statistics, Gandhinagar, Census of India, Ahmedabad, Department of Agriculture, Gandhinagar, Industrial Extension Bureau, Gandhinagar, Udhyog Bhavan, Gandhinagar District Industrial Centers of Saurashtra Region, Civil Supply Department Saurashtra Region, Zela Panchyat offices of Saurashtra Region and State Bank of Saurashtra in respective district, Taluka, and Village level office.

I am highly indebted to the villagers of Saurashtra region whose help and hospitality enabled to reach at grass root level.
Lastly, The encouragement and enthusiasm of my son Sagar and my wife Seema have been the pillars of my strength and love and best wishes of my parents and In-Laws in every stage were responsible for the progress in my life.

I take the sole responsibility of errors and omissions, if any, in this study.

Date: September 14, 2001

SHIRISH.R.BHARDWAJ