ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

My guide Dr. (Mrs.) Anjana Desai has been a constant source of inspiration and guidance. It was her encouraging attitude and zeal that helped me to complete my thesis. Her visionary outlook and regular suggestions has helped me to channelise my efforts in the right direction. Her moral support and blessings ensured the successful completion of the thesis.

I acknowledge Space Applications Centre (SAC), Ahmedabad for infrastructural support related to remote sensing provided by a number of people at different stages. My sincere thanks are due to Dr. George Joseph, Director and Shri A.K.S. Gopalan, Associate Director. I would duly acknowledge the valuable contribution of Dr. R.R. Navalgund, Dr. S.S. Pokharna, Dr Sadanand Singh, Dr. Shailesh Nayak, Dr. Pranav Desai, Shri S.K. Pathan, Shri T.P. Singh, Shri B. Simon and Shri J.K. Garg. My special thanks are to Dr Ravi Jadhav, Shri P.S. Thakar, Shri R.M. Pandya and Ms. Yogini V. Vanikar.

My thesis would have been incomplete without the GIS package, GRAM developed by IIT, Bombay and the training provided by Dept of Science and Technology, New Delhi. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Dr. (Mrs.) P. Venkatachalum, Dr. (Mrs.) J.K. Suri and Shri Chaudhury of CSRE, who provided the requisite help and training.
The constructive criticisms and suggestions of my friends Dr. (Mrs.) Sulbha Khanna and Mrs. Sudha Ravindranath have been instrumental in improving presentation in several places. I would like to thank the contribution of Mr. Gautam Bhattacharya towards the drawing of maps. My special thanks are due to Ms. Anjana Vyas, Ms. Shital Lodhia and Ms. Dipti Singh. The support and encouragement of Shri Vishnubhai Thakkar for computer work and Mrs. Harsha Shukla and other members of the Department of Geography was important.

The timely help and cooperation of Anirudh, Roshan and Hari was very crucial and I extend my sincere thanks to them.

I acknowledge several government and non-government departments, who kindly provided the required literature and data. Thanks are due to the field workers and families of the study area without whose enthusiastic support and feedback, the thesis would not have taken its present shape.

The encouragement and enthusiasm of my children Sreeram and Sreevidya have been the pillars of my strength. I would not have ventured into the current study had it not been for the mental strength provided by my husband (Late) Shri N.S. Subramanian. It was his guiding force that kept me going through this study. The blessings of all elders was of immense help and satisfaction.

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

CHANDRA SUBRAMANIAN