Acknowledgements

I express a deep sense of gratitude to my guide and philosopher Prof. (Dr.) G.G. Deshmukh, Faculty of Management Studies, The M.S. University of Baroda. As an eminent scholar in the field of management, he has been a source of inspiration for me right from the time of my enrolment for the M.B.A. programme. With his great versatility and knowledge in fields as diverse as 'panchayati raj' and 'corporate governance', he guided me to get a clear insight of the stakeholder concept. And, as a true Guru, he enabled me to explore the intricacies of the management concept in my chosen field of water resources. I have discovered in him a meticulous trainer, a source of unending knowledge, and a fountain of great wisdom. He is the guiding force behind this thesis; and I am highly indebted to him.

I am also grateful to Shri Indra Raj, Secretary, Sardar Sarovar Construction Advisory Committee, Vadodara. As a proficient manager and technocrat and head of my department, he not only provided me with the much-needed encouragement, but also enlightened and enriched me on many aspects of this work. Because of his vast experience and expertise in the water resource sector, my innumerable interactions with him enabled me to view the water resource development paradigm from diverse perspectives.

I am thankful to a number of senior and middle level officers of the Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Ltd. (SSNNL) and Sardar Sarovar Punarvasahat Agency (SSPA), who with their in-depth understanding of the Sardar Sarovar Project and deep commitment for its successful completion, have often engaged me with open-minded and enlightening discussions that broadened the sphere of my thinking. Though I am indebted to all such officers, my special thanks go to Shri N.B. Desai (former Director, SSNNL), Shri G.L. Java (former Executive Director, SSNNL), Shri V.K. Babbar (Principal Secretary to Government of Gujarat and former CEO, SSPA), Shri S.J. Desai (Director, SSNNL), Shri P.M. Patel (Chief Engineer, Navagam Dam), Shri D.C. Patel (Chief Engineer, Electrical), Shri P.S. Mehta (Superintending Engineer, Hydropower Design), and Shri R.J. Shah (Executive Engineer, Dam Design). I am also thankful to my colleagues, Shri G.S. Tyagi (Assistant Secretary, SSCAC) and Shri K.K. Saha (Assistant Secretary, SSCAC) and other members of my office for the valuable help rendered to me at different points of time.

My sincere thanks are also due to the faculty and staff members, especially to Prof. Mayank N. Dholakiya, Off. Dean, Faculty of Management Studies, The M.S. University of Baroda.

My deepest gratitude is to my family members. My father, mother, father-in-law, mother-in-law, and brothers have encouraged me to face the seemingly formidable challenge, and inspired me with their continued support. My wife Sheela, stood by me as a pillar of strength and encouragement; besides giving valuable help in drafting and editing of the manuscript. My young sons, Aditya and Arun, have not only in their own way motivated me at every stage of this endeavor, but also accommodated themselves to my busy schedules.

B. Ravi Kumar Pillai