ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It is a matter of great pleasure and privilege to record here my deep sense of gratitude and indebtedness to my research guide Dr. S. M. Shah, Professor and Head, Department of Statistics, Sardar Patel University, Vallabhbh Vidyanagar, for his valuable guidance, keen interest and constant encouragement throughout the course of this investigation and for immense help in writing the thesis.

I am grateful to Dr. Raje, Dr. Surendra Patel and Dr. Govindbhai Patel, Anand Municipal Hospital, Anand for extending their cooperation and help during my investigation work and data collection whenever I needed. I also take note of services rendered by Mr. Rameshbhai Purani and Mr. Chandrakant Patel with gratitude.

I would fail in my duty if I do not recollect here the help extended by the President, Anand Municipality, Anand, without which my work of data collection and information would have been impossible.
Principal R. C. Talati has remained a source of constant inspiration to me throughout my research work and has been kind enough to extend all possible help. I have no words to express my thankfulness to him.

I am indebted to the advice and guidance provided to me by two of the elders of my community - Late Shantilal Ambalal Choksi and Mr. Babulal Ambalal Choksi (Thaera) in shaping my career. What I am to-day is because of their constant encouragement. I bow down to them with due reverence.*

I record here with gratitude the advice and blessings I have received from my beloved parents, I just express my gratitude towards them with folded hands.

How can I forget my wife who constantly inspired me in all my academic pursuits and my children too, though naughty like every child, were wise enough not to disturb me while at study?

I would like to express my appreciation and thanks to Shri A. K. Patel who typed the thesis.

Janamashtami,
12, August, 1982

K. S. Shah