Acknowledgements

Respect has always been an integral part of the Indian soul. From time immemorial we have always respected - Our teachers, our elders, our parents and our guests, perhaps this is why a great Indian Emperor once observed *In Hindustan our manner is very respectful and our hearts are always open'*

Looking back, I am surprised and at the same time very grateful for all I have received throughout these years. It has certainly shaped me as a person and has led me where I am now. All these almost three and half years of Ph.D. studies are full of such gifts.

I want to first pay my gratitude to my beloved guide **Dr. Kalyan B. Laghane**, Dean, Department of Management Science & Faculty of Commerce, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad, for all the confidence he has put on me, before I thought I could do any research at all. He has always encouraged me to live intensively, even when I was thinking about doing something else.

During more than five years of knowing him, he has helped me to the research in their full depth, and taught me how to appreciate the good work that helps other researchers to build on it. He has enlightened me through his wide knowledge of Artificial Intelligence and his deep intuitions about where it should go and what is necessary to get there.

I also be obliged **Dr. Walmik Sarwade**, Director, Students welfare, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad, for his incredible guidance, which gave me tools that turned out to be
essential in my Ph.D. research, and for answering quickly all the questions I had about topics of their expertise. Thanks also to for insightful discussions, and for making their time available so I was able to use it in this work.

I would like to express my thanks to the other members of my thesis advisors such as Dr. A. Kharpas, Dr. U. Panchal, and Dr. N. Rathi, for much help with the research design and methodology. I thank all the respective and eminent personalities, who has help me for filling up the questionnaire for collection of data.

I take this opportunity with much pleasure to thank all the people, my students and my all friends who have helped me through the course of my journey towards producing this thesis.

Last but not least, this thesis would not have been possible without the confidence, endurance and support of my mother Mrs. Kusum Deshmukh. She has always been a source of inspiration and encouragement. I wish to thank her, whose love, teachings and support have brought me this far. Without her I would be a very different person today, and it would have been certainly much harder to finish a Ph.D. Still today, learning to love her and to receive her love makes me a better person.

I finish with a final silence of gratitude for my life.

Pooja Deshmukh

Place: Aurangabad

Date: