

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank my supervisor, Dr. G.H. Jain and Dr. V.B. Gaikwad, for their guidance, unwavering support, rational advice and encouragement throughout my research, work and life. Dr. G.H. Jain and Dr. V.B. Gaikwad shared me their wisdom, insight and spirit during my Ph. D. work. It is a great experience for me to research under their guidance and it is also the precious treasures for me in my future research career.

I acknowledge UGC, New Delhi for the research scholarship. I also acknowledge Department of Science and Technology (DST), New Delhi for the INSPIRE fellowship under INSPIRE program for doctoral degree. These financial supports enabled me to conduct my research work.

I am highly indebted to Late Dr. Vasant Pawar and Smt. Neelimatai Pawar, Sarchitnis, Maratha Vidya Prasarak Samaj, Nashik and Dr. D.B. Shinde, Principal, Arts, Commerce and Science College, Nandgaon, for providing me freedom for work and excellent laboratory facilities during the period of my research program.

I would like to thank to Dr. L.A. Patil and Dr. R.H. Bari to recommend me to work under the guidance of Dr. G.H. Jain on major research project.

I would like to give a special thanks to Mr. D.D. Kajale and Mr. N.K. Pawar for their generous help and knowledgeable discussions from the day one I started my lab work. I also thanks to my group members Mr. D.N. Chavan, Dr. Pratap Patil, Mr. M.K. Deore, Mr. P.D. Hire, Mr. S.B. Deshmukh, Mr. N.U. Patil, Mr. R.L. Patil, Mr. R.M. Choudhari, Mr. S.B. Nahire, Mrs. Varsha Patil, Mr. Y.R. Baste, Mr. Sharad Gaikwad, Mr. Revan Nikam for boosting my morale as well as giving continued support during the course of my research. I would also like to thank to Mr. D.V. Ahire and Mr. K.K. Thakur for their advice and assistance.

I especially thank to Dr. U.A. Ashturkar, Mr. Deepak Magare, Mr. S.R. Shirsath, Mr. L.D. Dede, Mr. P.K. Kulkarni, Mr. M.R. Gaware and Mr. J.S. Moon for their morale support. I also thankful to the non-teaching staff of ACS College, Nandgaon Mr. B.R. Bagul, Mr. L.S. Tidke, Mr. R.G. Gagare, Mr. M.V. Diwate, Mr. D.D. Dani, Mr. M.D. Jadhav, Mr. M.L. Desale, Mr. D.R. Nanaware, Mr. B.B. Bachhav, Mr. Sanjay Patil, Mr. V.E. Lahire, Mr. M.D. Mahore, Mr. S.W. Gangurde, Mr. N.U. Gangurde and Mr. Santosh

Lohkare, for their kind cooperation which is a special thing indeed to feel at home in a working environment and I once again thanks to all of them for my memorable experience which has been a very positive one.

I would like to specially thank to my friends Mr. Dnyaneshwar Thate, Mr. Prashant Malkhade, Mr. Anil Bari, Mr. Sharad Patil, Mr. Yogesh Patil, Mr. Chango Choudhari, Mr. Bharat Patil and Mr. Nitin Kulkarni for their constant support.

My heartfelt gratitude goes to Mrs. Sarika Jain and Mrs. Deepika Kajale for their magnificent positive spirit and unfailing support.

I would like to express my deep appreciation to my family for their love and constant support, father Shri. Ekanath Patil, mother Mrs. Sakubai Patil, uncle Shri. Supadu Patil, aunt Mrs. Radhabai Patil, brother: Shri. Dnyaneshwar Patil, Shri. Sopan Patil, Nivrutti Patil, Dasharath Patil and sister-in-law Mrs. Manisha Patil, Mrs. Vidya Patil and niece Asmita and Poonam.

Ganesh Ekanath Patil

Dedicated with reverence

to

My Grandmother Late Bhikabai Patil,

Father Shri. Ekanath Patil

and

Mother Mrs. Sakubai Patil