ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The completion of a research work requires considerable support and guidance. While working for my research, I have received the necessary support and help in all the stages of my work.

In the first place, I would like to express my sincere gratitude towards my guide, Dr. Vishwas S. Kale, Head, Department of Geography, University of Pune, for his great support, sincere guidance, his vast experience along with his dedication and discipline was a constant source of encouragement till the final stages of my work. I wish to thank him from the bottom of my heart, for all the efforts and help I received during the research work. He will always remain as the source of inspiration for me.

I wish to thank Dr. V. S. Datye and Dr. B. C. Vaidya, former Heads of Geography Department, University of Pune, for providing me the facilities of using the laboratory and computer of the department. I am also thankful to Dr. Veena Joshi, Department of Geography, University of Pune for giving valuable suggestions.

Special thanks are due to Dr. A. K. Singhvi, Physical Research Laboratory, Ahemadabad, Dr. N. Basavaiah of the Indian Institute of Geomagnetism (IIG), Panvel, Dr. C. Rajshekhar of Agharkar Research Institute (ARI), Pune, Dr. N. J. Pawar, Vice Chancellor, Shivaji University, Kolhapur and former Head, Department of Geology, University of Pune, Dr. S. J. Sangode, Dr. Karmalkar and Dr. Ashvini Supekar of Department of Geology, University of Pune for providing an analytical facilities (i.e. OSL and 14C dating of sediment sample, Magnetic Susceptibility Analysis, Chara Count Analysis and XRF Analysis) and for undertaking the analyses of the tanks sediment samples. They are also thanked for their help in the interpretation of the data.

I would like to thank Dr. S.N. Rajaguru and Dr. Sushma Deo, Department of Archeology, Deccan College, Pune, for their valuable suggestions and providing toposheets of my study region.

I express my thanks to “Bhartiya Etihas Sanshodhan Mandal”, Sadashivpeth, Pune, and Indian Institute of Technology, Powai, for providing some historical books and articles to gather information of historical tanks in the western Maharashtra.
I am highly indebted to my friend Asaram Jadhav and my nephew Umesh Magar for helping me in the long and endless series of fieldwork.

Mrs. Asha Patwardhan of Department of Geography, university of Pune, has taught me the complete procedure of geochemical analysis. She physically carried out all the chemical analyses with me. I express my sincere thanks to her.

I am also thankful to Mr. Ingawale, the laboratory assistant of Department of Geography, University of Pune, for his full co-operation during the analysis of the sediment samples.

I wish to thank Mr. Jagtap, Mr. Nishikant Kudle and Miss. Rajashree Chaudhari and other non-teaching staff of the Department of Geography for providing me the necessary help from time to time.

I sought help from my friends Deendayalan, Prashanta Das and Arif of Indian Institute of Geomagnetism, Panvel, regarding mineral magnetic analysis. I express special thanks to them as well.

I am thankful to my classmates and friends for their support and help, particularly, Nitin Mundhe, Rahul Todmal, Mahendra Korade, Babaji Maskare, Santosh Bhailume, Changdev Kudnar, Devidas Tambe, Vikas Nagare, Somasis Sengupta and Vijay Sonawane.

My relatives Bhau Lawand, Dada Magar, Bhau Chavan and Hanumant Magar have shown full cooperation during the present work. I owe special thanks to them.

I wish to express my gratitude towards my parents and my in-laws for their encouragement and constant moral support throughout the completion of my work.

Last but not the least, words are not enough to express my gratitude towards my better half Sheetal for her support, help, and especially looking after the daughter, Ananya during this research work.

Once again, I thank all those who well wished me during the present project.

Arun S. Magar