Acknowledgement

The work presented in this thesis would not have been possible without my close association with many people who were always there when I needed them the most. I take this opportunity to acknowledge them and extend my sincere gratitude for helping me make this Ph.D. thesis a possibility.

My first debt of gratitude must go to my research guide, Dr. (Mrs.) Alaka S. Gadgil, Professor Emeritus, Department of Geography, University of Pune. She patiently provided the vision, encouragement and advice necessary for me to proceed through the doctoral program and complete my research study. She has been a living role model to me, taking up new challenges every day, tackling them with all her grit and determination and always thriving to come out victorious. It’s her vigour and hunger to perform in adverse situation, which has inspired me to thrive for excellence and nothing less...thank you Mam for everything.

My special word of thanks to Dr. G Krishnakumar, Director, National Data Centre, IMD, Pune for his invaluable insights and suggestions. I really appreciate his willingness to meet me at short notice every time and reviewing the results with critical scrutiny, which tested my real ability. I remain amazed that despite his busy schedule, he helped me to analyze the extensive datasets. He is an inspiration.

I express my sincere gratitude to Dr. V S Kale, Professor and Head of Department of Geography, Dr. Nitin Karmakar, Professor and Head of Department of Environmental Science, the teaching, non teaching and administrative staff of these departments for extending their help and other facilities from time to time, while carrying out my research activities. At the same time, my sincere thanks are also due to the Librarian of India Meteorological Department, Pune for allowing me to use their library facility.

Shashikant Nehul, Smita Thorat, Sheetal Panchal worth a special mention during completion of this work particularly for checking the references and compilation of the final thesis. I would also like to acknowledge Sharad Shingade and Urmila Ghevade for their assistance in cartographic and mapping work.
I would like to acknowledge all the teachers I learnt from since my childhood, I would not have been here without their guidance, blessing and support.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the people who mean world to me, my parents, my husband, my son, other family members and friends. I don’t imagine a life without their love and blessings. Thank you mom & dad, for showing faith in me and giving me liberty to choose what I desired. I consider myself the luckiest in the world to have such a supportive family, standing behind me with their love and support.

Above all, I owe it all to Almighty God for granting me the wisdom, health and strength to undertake this research task and enabling me to its completion.

Hemlata Patel