AKNOWLEDGEMENT

It gives me a great pleasure in expressing my sincere and heartfelt thanks to Dr. A. P. Kumbhar, Reader, Department of Geography, Chhatrapati Shivaji College, Satara for his valuable help and able guidance in present endeavor. His sound knowledge of the subject and skill in various experimental techniques helped me in successfully carrying out this thesis. I owe to him so much that, I would like to remain indebted to him.

I am very thankful to University Grants commission, New Delhi for rendering me an opportunity for doing this invaluable doctoral work.

I wish to extend my thanks to Prin. Wagh A. M., D. P. Bhosale College, Koregaon and Prin. Barge A. E., Chhatrapati Shivaji College, Satara. My thanks are also to the member of the teaching and non-teaching staff of Geography Department, Chhatrapati Shivaji College, Satara.

I owe my gratitude to Librarian of Chhatrapati Shivaji College, Satara and D. P. Bhosale College, Koregaon.

It is also necessary to acknowledge the help of Prof. K. A. Khatib, A. R. More (Sawantwadi), T. N. Lokhande, S. M. Sathe, A. R. Mali, V. B. Zodage (Kudal, Sindhudurg), B. S. Khilare, P. R. Nalwade, N. M. Gaikwad, N. D. Narwade.

My Greatest debt is to my wife Mrs. Manisha, Son Shreyas and daughter Samridhi for their tolerance, patience and source of encouragement.

I am very much thankful to Mr. M. G. Nikam for printing the manuscript very neatly and precisely on D. T. P.

Finally, I wish to express my gratitude to all those who have helped me directly or indirectly in the completion of this thesis.

Satara
29/6/2001

S. B. Zodage