ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My profound sense of gratitude in all its humbleness to my research guide Dr. K.C. Ramotra, Professor, Department of Geography, Shivaji University, Kolhapur for his guidance and inspiration, kind and courteous treatment enabled me to finalise this work. His deep knowledge helped and taught me so much at various stages.

I am extremely grateful to the University Grants Commission, New Delhi for sanctioning me a Minor Research Project which helped me during Ph. D. research work, which enabled me to formulate a concrete base for the present work.

I express my thanks to our Principal Dr. Sham Joshi for their cooperation during this research work.

I express my gratitude to Dr. Shilpa Sapre-Bharmal who helped me at various stages in completion of my research work.

I am also grateful to my departmental colleagues Smt. Pragati Kubal and Mr. Rahul Pawar for their constant help in field work and data analysis.

I also owe my sincere debt to Dr. D. H. Pawar, Dr. S. K. Pawar member of faculty, Dept. of Geography, Shivaji University and especially Dr. Y. S. Mote for graphic and Dr. P. A. Saymote for map construction.

My thanks are also due to members of teaching and non teaching staff of my college and university Geography Department for their kind cooperation.

I would like to record my thanks to my several students at B. A. level who helped me during fieldwork.

I also thank to, my husband Mr. Prasad, daughter Simantini, and son Sanjeet for their tolerance, patience and source of encouragement.

I extend my thanks to Shrikant Desai for computer work.

Lastly, I wish to express my gratitude to all those who have helped me directly or indirectly in completion of my work.

Place: Kolhapur
Date: Mrs. Madhura Prasad Vardam

Mrs. Madhura Prasad Vardam