Acknowledgements

• My mother, Smt. Bharti Shrikishanji Varma, is the creator of my love for literature. It was her idea that I should work on women writers. I am overwhelmed with gratitude to my Naneeji for that.

• My teacher and guide, Dr. V.T. Girdhari Sir, did not confine his blessings only to teachership and guidance. A patriarch of contagious human goodness and the priest of benevolence, he refined my knowledge and chiseled my studies. Instead of ending in wordy acknowledgment, I would look forward to his sustaining shadow on my mind, forever.

• My younger sister, Dr. Satya, looked after my physical fitness from time to time and I bless her with a healthy heart in a healthy body! There are also two youngsters, Deepa and Kailash, who have played their role in the progress of my work, and studies.

• My unforgettable teachers throughout my education, are all there in the memory, like a saved folder in My Documents....! I am thankful to them for creating the thirst for knowledge in me. Shri Arunkumar Saudagar, Smt. Shakuntala Chaudhari, Shri Pratap Dharamsi, and Dr. L. S. Deshpande are among them. There are the warm-hearted well wishers like Dr. Vijaykumar Sharma and Mrs. Varsha Gosavi, and friends like Jagdish Bhosle and Shail Wadikar, whose concern and care I shall not forget. I am especially thankful to Mrs. Radha Girdhari for her blessings that lie in her ever-welcoming smile to me. I also recall the jovial Pawar couple, Ajay and Savita, for their encouragement.
The Principal of our college, Dr. V. N. Ingole Sir, encouraged my work and co-operated, with concern. I am really grateful to him for all his goodness. I am thankful to my college-library-staff and my senior colleagues who kept enquiring about my project with concern and wished me God-speed. I owe a lot of thanks to Ms. Tasneem Anjum and Mr. S. G. Bhanegaonkar for extending their help and relevant material on my subject. I owe special thanks to Dr. A. Uma from Hyderabad, for her research-papers that proved to be very useful to me. I shall fail in my duties if I forget Mrs. Deshmukh from Latur and Manoj Borgoankar from Nanded who helped me by a brief discussion on the topic.

I owe much gratitude to the libraries of CIEFL and IACIS at Hyderabad, British Council at Pune and Bombay, University libraries at Pune and Aurangabad and the library of Women’s Studies at Tirupati. These treasuries and also People’s College library and Pratibha Niketan College library at Nanded, have allowed me to shuffle their shelves for my work. I am thankful to them. The typescript of this whole project is prepared by Kishorkumar M. Jamkar from Loha. I am thankful to him for his efficiency and systematic work.

Apart from the names I could list here, there are innumerable members of the active life-force around me; my thanks are due to them.

Researcher
Bhagyashree Shrīkishanjī Varma.
Nanded.
June 2003.