ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I take this opportunity to express my indebtedness to two great social reformers, first, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar for his contribution towards empowerment of deprived class, whom I belong to, and second, Mahatma Jyotirao Phule for being a pioneer of women education in India. I believe that I am because they were.

I sincerely acknowledge the University Grants Commission and the SNDT Women’s University for providing financial assistance in the form of ‘Teacher Fellowship’ under ‘Faculty Improvement Programme’ which buttressed me to perform my work comfortably.

This thesis would not have been possible without the guidance and the help of several individuals who in one way or another contributed and extended their valuable assistance in the preparation and completion of this study.

Foremost, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my guide Dr. Bharati Sen for the continuous support of my Ph.D study and research, for her patience, motivation, enthusiasm, and immense knowledge. Her guidance helped me in all the time of research and writing of this thesis. Under her guidance I successfully overcame many difficulties and learned a lot. Her direction right from stage of selection of the topic of research till the end of the thesis was very valuable for the study. She believed in me and her unflinching backup added confidence in me. I could not have imagined having a better advisor and mentor for my Ph.D study. I hope to continue to work with her noble thoughts.

I thank all the teacher respondents and library respondents for participating in this study. Many leaders have helped me to do tedious job of data collection. Some of the names of these leaders were Ms. Sandhya Dokhe, Mr. Kailash Pawar, Mr. Dharmani Kharat, Mr. Bhupendra Bansod, Ms. Sheetal Shah, Ms. Neeta Kamble, Mr. Sonawane, Mr. Ajay Kamble, Mr. Sanjay More, Mrs. Randive, Mr. Borgaonkar, Dr. Virendra Nagarale, Mr. Mendhe, Mr. Waghmare, Mr. Sagar Dandhagawal, Mr. Kiran Raikar, Ms. Kranti Gawali, Mr. Santosh Patil, and Ms. Shahin Ansari. I am extremely grateful to them for their help.
I am grateful to Nirmala Niketan of Social Work College for making their computer lab available to me to use the SPSS statistical software, and to Gokhale College Library for allowing me to use their library reading room to do my study.

Special thanks to Dr, Sinha from Guru Nanak Khalsa College of Art, Science and Commerce, statistician, who provided timely and free help in my difficulties about statistics.

I thank SNDT Women’s University Library staff for excellent services provided to me in the crucial time of my research work.

My husband, Mr. Shreeram Bhabal and my son, Smit deserve a big hug and huge thanks for their sincere encouragement and support throughout my research work and lifting me uphill this phase of life to achieve of my degree.

I thank my brothers, Mr. Mangesh Ghodke and Mr. Atul Ghodke for their kind support. Mangesh was there whenever I was in need whereas Atul made my stay comfortable in Pune and helped me in data collection.

I thank Ms. Anjali Kale for being fellow researcher and friend; we were constantly encouraging each other to complete our thesis.

I am obliged to my parents, in-laws and other relatives who had faith in me and gave me moral support throughout the study. They shared my household responsibilities, so that I could carry out my research work efficiently.

My colleagues and several library professionals, as well as my friends, knowing and unknowingly, helped me in successful completion of my research work. I express thanks to them.

At the end of my thesis I would like to thank all those people who made this thesis possible and an unforgettable experience for me.