ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I express my deep gratitude towards my research guide Dr. V. B. Kakade, Reader of the Department of Economics, Shivaji University, Kolhapur. Because I feel myself most fortunate to have got an opportunity to work under his guidance, without which this challenging work could not be materialized in the present form. His role in this work will remain a source of enduring inspiration to meet through out my life.

I express my deep sense of gratitude to the Dr. V. B. Jugale, Professor & Head, Department of Economics, Prof. J. F. Patil, Dr. A. A. Dange, Dr. P. A. Koli, Dr. R. G. Dandge, Shri P. N. Gavade, Mrs. V. P. Katti and other teaching staff and non teaching staff of the Department of Economics, Shivaji University, Kolhapur, Librarian and other staff of the Bar. Khardekar Library of Shivaji University, Kolhapur for their kind co-operation.

I express my sincere thanks to the Secretary, Rayat Shikshan Sanstha, Satara and the Principal Arts & Commerce College, Madha, Dist. Solapur for granting me a study leave and giving me a lot of encouragement to complete the M. Phil. course. I also express my thanks to Shri P. P. Jagtap, Shri P. V. Takbhate, Librarian and the teaching and non-teaching staff of Arts & Commerce College, Madha.

I am highly indebted to Mr. Ganpatrao Deshmukh, President, Mr. Jagannath Ligade, Chairman, M. Pol, I/C Managing Director,

Mr. Ghadage, Labour Officer, Shetkari Sahakari Soot Girni Ltd., Sangole.

I express my heartily thanks to my mother Kusum Bhanudas Shinde, wife Kamal-Vanita and my daughter Sanyogita for their constant inspiration and moral support during the course of my study.

I must mention my sincere thanks to the University Grants Commission, New Delhi for awarding me a Teacher Fellowship for a year.

I also thankful to my dear students especially Shri Santosh N. Kadam, Ph. D. Research Fellow, Department of Economics, Shivaji University, Kolhapur.

I also thankful to Shri A. N. Sabale and Shri S. S. Pasare for their kind co-operation in doing this work.

I am also thankful to all persons who have directly or indirectly helped me in completing this research work.

Lastly I am thankful to Prajakta Typing and Xerox Centre, Kolhapur of their help in neat and timely typing of this dissertation.

Shri K. B. Shinde