ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The dissertation entitled "The Role of Panchayat Raj in the THE Process of Rural Development: A Case Study of Shirol Panchayat Samitee" is the outcome of hard efforts and sincere co-operation from a lot of persons.

I cannot express my gratitude in enough words for my research guide Dr. R. G. Dandge, Department of Economics, Shivaji University, Kolhapur, who always encouraged me and helped me in every possible way to complete this dissertation.

I am very much thankful to Dr. J. F. Patil, Professor and former Head, Department of Economics and Dr. V. B. Jugale, Professor and Head, Department of Economics, Shivaji University, Kolhapur for providing me departmental facilities.

I thank all the teaching and non-teaching staff and friends of the Department of Economics, Shivaji University, Kolhapur for their kind help and encouragement.

I also owe my sincere debt to my mother Mrs. Malutai Keripale, my father Mr. Dhanapal Keripale, my brother's Ramesh, Sagar and my grandfather and grandmother, who are my constant source of inspiration throughout the study.

I express my special thanks to my friends Sanjay Dhonde, Prabhakar Mane, Prakash Shetti, Raju Dadage, Vijay Ambekar, Jaywant Kothmire, Annasaheb Hardare, Jittendra Kole, Shailaja Kamble, Archana Gaikwad, Sunanda Patil, Vidya Kamble, Mrs. Rohini Patil for their kind help and encouragement.

My special thanks are to the concerned Kolhapur Zilla Parishad, Shirol Panchayat Samiti and five village Panchayats, who provided me the data and other information from official records without delay. I am also thankful to Gram Sevaks of village Panchayats of Shedshal, Shirol, Takwade, Kothali, Sainik Takali, as well as all members for their co-operation in my data collection.

I am thankful to the chief librarian Barr. Balasaheb Khardekar Library, Shivaji University, Kolhapur for the use of the library facility.

My gratitude to Sou. S. S. Pasare of Prajakta Typing and Xerox Centre, Kolhapur for her neat and timely typing and xeroxing services.

Place: Kolhapur

Miss Geeta D. Keripale