ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I express my deep sense of gratitude and sincere thanks to my Research Guide Dr.R.G.Pandurkar, Reader, Department of Geography, Shivaji University, Kolhapur.

The prime source behind the completion of this work is Dr.P.W.Deshmukh, Professor and Head, Department of Geography, Shivaji University, Kolhapur. I express my sincere thanks to him.

I must thank Dr.Bethria, District Health Officer of Kolhapur, Government of Maharashtra, and the Office Superintendents of different Municipalities in Kolhapur District, and Prof.B.K.Katkar, former In-charge Principal, S.B.Khade Mahavidyalaya, Koparde, for their guidance.

I am also grateful to Dr.M.G.Jadhav and late Dr.A.D.Mulik, Readers, Department of Geography, Shivaji University, Kolhapur.

My thanks are also due to the members of teaching and non-teaching staff of Geography Department, Shivaji University, Kolhapur, for their kind cooperation.

I gives me a great pleasure to express my thanks towards my colleagues, S.V.Sutar, S.R.Shirgaonkar, A.B.Kamble, I.B.Maner, S.B.Raut, G.J.Fagare, S.S.Chougule, T.S.Khot, N.D.Sutar, B.M.Kumbhar, B.I.Aoute, V.M.Suryavanshi, C.M.Walke and late S.R.Shinde.

I am very grateful to Shri.Ravan for his cartographic work in this Dissertation.

Actually, I have no words to thank my family members, especially Dada, Aai, and my wife Minakshi. I also express my pleasure towards my brother Anna, Vahini and cousins Prakash and Kundalik for their sincere help in completing this research work.

Finally, I wish to express my gratitude towards my staff members and to those who helped me directly or indirectly in completing this research work.

Maruti T.Ha

Kolhapur Date: 29/6/96