

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It is a pleasure for me to express deep sense of gratitude and sincere thanks to my research guide, Professor Pawar C. T., for his valuable guidance and encouragement for the completion of this work.

My extreme thanks are due to Prin. Dr. Panjabrao Ronge, Arts College, Savlaj, Prin. Dr. Arun Andhle, Mahatma Phule Mhavidhyalaya, Pimpri (Pune), Prin. Dr. T. N. Gholap, Radhabai Kale Mahila Mahavidhya, Ahamadnagar., Dr.(Mrs) Shinde D. S., Lecturer, Dept. of Geography, Shivaji University, Kolhapur., for giving me an opportunity to undertake this research work and inspiration.

I will fail in my duties if I do not express my sincere thanks to Dr. Dr. M. G. Jadhav., Dr. S.B. Deshmukh., Dr. K. C. Ramotra., Dr. D. H. Pawar., Shri. Sapkale., Shri. Vadiar., Shri. Panhalkar., Dr.(Mrs) Potdar Minna., for their timely help and constructive suggestions.

I am highly indebted to my beloved institute Rayat Shikshan Sanstha, Satara, for permitting to complete the M.Phil degree. I am also thankful to my teachers D. T. Yadav., S. D. Ingle., R. S. Pathak., K. S. Survase., S. K. Nale., (Mudhoji college, Phaltan.) G. S. Kale. L. P. Tambe., S. P. Kulkarni., my close colleagues and other teaching and non-teaching staff of Arts College, Savlaj. I also express my sincere thanks to Mrs. Ingle S.S (Phaltan) for the encouragement given by her.

I am grateful to administrative staff of Tahsil office, Panchyat Samiti and Nagarparishad, Phaltan for their kind co-operation in the collection of data and information.

I must express my thanks to my father Shri P. V. Gaikwad., Mother Tai., brother Sanjay, father in-law Shri P. S. Bhosale., wife Sou. Nishigandha and my son Anurag, who have tolerated me and attended the other homely affairs to enable me to devote to my work.

My sincere thanks are also due to my friends namely Dr. P. V. Patil, Dr. T. P. Shinde, V. M. Bansode, Dr. Sanjay D. Gaikwad, and Dr. Sambhaji Shinde. For their encouragement and timely help

Thanks are due to my friend Abhinav Kurkute for his assistance in GIS map work and Hanumant Sutar for his assistance in computer typing.

Finally, I wish my gratitude to all those who have helped me directly or indirectly in the completion of this research work.

Kolhapur

April...27., 2008


(GAIKWAD V. P.)