ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

While completing this M.Phil. research dissertation, several institutions and individuals have assisted me at various stages. The research project remains incomplete unless I knowledge and thank them.

I express my deep sense of gratitude to my research guide Dr. (Mrs.) P. P. Koli, Head (Rtd.) of the Department of Economics, Gopal Krishn Gokhale College, Kolhapur. I feel myself most fortunate to have an opportunity to work under her guidance. It would not have been possible to complete the present research work without her help, invaluable guidance and co-operation. I find no proper words to express my gratitude to her.

I am grateful to teaching faculty members Dr. A. A. Dange, Professor and Head, Department of Economics, Dr. R. G. Dandage, Dr. P. S. Kamble, Prof. S. T. Kombde, Smt. V. P. Katti of Department of Economics, Shivaji University, Kolhapur for their timely help and suggestions. I am also thankful to the non-teaching staff Shri. Ashok Sabale, of the Department of Economics and Statistics section of Shivaji University, Kolhapur for their kind co-operation during the period of my research work.

I am also thankful to librarians and library staff of Barr. Balasaheb Khardekar Library, Shivaji University, Kolhapur, College of Agriculture, Kolhapur, Maharashtra Goat and Sheep Research and Development Institute, Phaltan, who have provided me an opportunity to use their libraries.

I take this opportunity to thank the authorities of Shivaji University, Kolhapur, Directorate of Animal Husbundry, Pune, Maharashtra Mendhi and Sheli Vikas Mahamandal Ltd., Mendhi Farm,

Ranjani, Kavathe-Mahankal, and Sangli Zilla Parishad Pashusavardan Khate, Sangli, veterinary doctors of Sangli, Miraj and Jath and District Central Co-operative Bank, Sangli who helped and encouraged me by providing the statistical information for my research work. I have also to express my deep gratitude to sample respondents who spent their time and co-operation for giving me valuable information on the basis of which I could complete this research work.

I must thanks my friends and relatives particularly Mr. D. S. Sadakale, Division and Development Officer, Zilla Parishad, Sangli, Mr. Madhukar L. Ware, Mr. David A. Sanglikar, Mr. Sandip M. Satpute, Mr. Sachin L. Chandanshive, for their continuous encouragement and help in conducting the research work.

I must express my deepest appreciation to my mother and father Mrs. Lata N. Chandanshive and Mr. Narayan K. Chandanshive for their support. I also express my appreciation to my sisters Rojas and Sarojani for their co-operations.

I am also grateful to Mr. Mandar of Sarvesh typing and zerox center, Miraj for his neatly and timely zeroxing of the dissertation.

It is my duty to thank all those who directly and indirectly assisted me through suggestions, valuable comments and much needed encouragement.