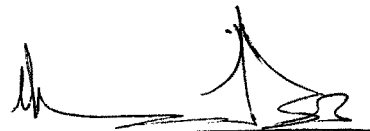


DECLARATION

I declare that this dissertation has been composed by me and has not previously formed the basis for the award of any degree, diploma or other similar title.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke, positioned above the name S.B. Chavan.

(S.B. CHAVAN)