ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

At the out set I would like to exhibit my deep gratitude to my research guide Dr.D.H.Pawar, without whose continuous guidance, valuable suggestions, encouragement and directions during the completion of this research work, this dissertation would not have been completed.

I am immensely grateful to Dr.K.C.Ramotra, Head, Department of Geography, Shivaji University, Kolhapur for extending facilities and guidance during the completion of the work.

My sincere thanks go to Shri. S.K.Vadiyar, Dr. D.S.Shinde, Shri. J.B.Sapkale, Shri. S.S.Panhalkar and Dr.M.B.Potdar for their kind cooperation during this research work. I express my gratitude to Prof.S.B.Sangale, Malkapur for his kindly granting permission to reproduce the maps of Kolhapur district. I am grateful to the non teaching staff of the department especially Mrs. S.I.Mulla office administrator, and others.

I am immensely thankful to Shri. M.S. Shikalgar, Forest officer, Kolhapur division, for providing valuable information and data regarding various schemes implemented in Kolhapur district. I am thankfully acknowledge the villagers cooperated during the field work.

I really thankful to all my friends especially Bhandari A.S and Talekar Pravin for their cooperation during field work and in preparation of maps with the help of GIS software respectively. At last but not least I would like to express gratitude to my parents and other family members for their encouragement to complete my research work.

Place: Kolhapur

Shikalgar Altaf Babasab