ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This dissertation was undertaken and completed under the guidance and supervision of Dr. A.D. Madgulkar, Professor and Head, Deptt. of Social Work, Chh. Shahu Central Institute of Business Education and Research (CSCIBER), Kolhapur. With his rich critical insight, patience and keen interest, Dr. Madgulkar was a great source of encouragement at every stage of the work. This formal acknowledgement, I am aware, is an inadequate expression of my sense of gratitude to him.

I express my sincere thanks to Prof. Dr. A.D. Shinde, Director, Dr. P.S. Rao, Principal and Dr. T.A. Shiware, Jt. Secretary of CSCIBER, Kolhapur, for providing necessary facilities to carry out the present work.

My warm thanks are also due to the staff members of the Department of Social Work, CSCIBER, Kolhapur, especially Dr. (Mrs) S.B. Pandit, Dr. Cherian, P.Kurian, Prof. B.S. Patil, and Prof. (Ms) S.S. Joshi, who always encouraged me in the course of the work.

I have been benefitted to a great extent by the help rendered by Prof. M.L. Jadhav, Department of English, Shivaji University, Kolhapur, Prof. Dr. D.R. More, Dr. N.R. Thorat, Shri Shahaji Chn. Mahavidyalaya, Kolhapur, for providing me encouragement, assistance and timely advice during the course of my complete research work.

I am thankful to the officials of ICDS scheme, Kolhapur city and the Zilla Parishad, Kolhapur, who helped me a lot for the data collection.

I am grateful to the Librarians and the authorities of CSCIBER and Shivaj University, Kolhapur, for providing necessary facilities during my complete research work.

I thank Shri H.M. Jagtap, the Cartographer, and Shri V.G. Chopade, Deputy Registrar, both of Shivaji University Kolhapur for their assistance.

Finally I would like to record my sincere thanks to all my friends and well-wishers who directly and indirectly helped me in my endeavour.

Kolhapur 271121 1993 Munico,