

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The researcher expresses his sincere gratitude to his teacher and guide Dr.M.M.Awate, for his valuable guidance and sustained motivation in undertaking the work on Hijra, a stigmatized and neglected community in the Indian society. Without his advice and parental attitudes this work could not have been in this shape as it is being presented here.

The researcher is indebted to all the respondents, who came forward to open their hearts and show how they have been leading a miserable life in the greater society. They gave interviews without any expectations and showed keen interest in the study.

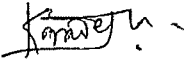
The investigator thanks the members of the Sociology Department for their suggestions. The researcher owes a debt of gratitude to Dr. S.N. Pawar, who has been always a source of inspiration to him since his post-graduate days.

The researcher offers his thanks to Mr. Khamkar, Todkar and Uttam Ayrekar for their great help during the field work and at all stages of this work. He is specially thankful to Prof. Siddharth Dhangar, his teacher, for his guidance and timely advice.

The researcher offers his special thanks to Shri Balasaheb Kawade for his labourious and painstaking typing work.

The researcher owes a debt of gratitude to the authorities of Shivaji University, Kolhapur for providing him an opportunity to work on this topic as a researcher.

Lastly, he wishes to express his gratitude to his parents Mrs. Mr.H.B. Karade, and wife Mrs. Sujata for their paitence during the M.Phil. Course.


(J.H. Karade)

Place : Kolhapur

Date : 31/12/93