## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The present work is undertaken to study the Mahar and Chambhar communities with sociological point of view. In pursuing my work I had great pleasure to express my deep sense of gratitude and reverence to my research guide Prof. Dr. R.N. Salve, Department of Sociology, Shivaji University, Kolhapur. This work is completed under his keen supervision. Without his valuable guidance, criticism and suggestions it would not be possible to accomplish this work. I take this opportunity to acknowledge my sincere feelings of gratitude and respect for his valuable help.

I am very much thankful to Prof. Dr. J. B. Ambekar (Yadav), Head, Dept. of Sociology, Shivaji University, Kolhapur, for his constant encouragement and for providing the necessary facilities to carry out research work.

I am thankful to Prof. (Dr) R. B. Patil, Prof. (Dr) S.A. Salunkhe, Prof. D. Shrikant, Prof. B.N. Kendre, Prof. Smt. Gokhale, for their timely help and suggestions.

I am especially thankful to Prof. Dr. V. S. Patil, Head, Dept. of Commerce & Management and Dean of the faculty of Commerce, Shivaji University, Kolhapur, for the valuable guidance and suggestions through out this work.

I am always indebted to my uncle Prof. Dr. G. J. Fagare, S. B. Khade Mahavidlaya, Koparde, who have guided and supported me in all stages of the research work. He has been a continuous source of inspiration and encouragement to me.

I sincerely thanks to the Librarian and the staff of Barr. Balasaheb Khardekar Library, Shivaji University, Kolhapur. I also thanks to Sarpanch, Gramsevak and clerks of Grampanchayat, Adkur and Mangaon for their co-operation and timely help.

I am thankful to Prof. P. M. Kadukar, Prof. Pralhad Mane, Prof. A.K. Raut, Shri. K. D. Barvelkar, Shri. Sanjay Kamble and my friends Laxmikant Patil, Mohan Gholase, Deepak Patil, Mandekar, Devan Bandhu, Baliram Sawant, who have continuously encouraged and helped me throughout this work. I am very much thankful to the respondents who gave me timely co-operation and provided the data for this study. I record the gratitude for the help given by them.

My work would not have been completed without the patient support of my grandmother Rukmini, father Krishna, mother Anusaya, uncle Manohar, brother Vitthal, aunt sou. Ashwini and my wife sou. Vasudha and all members of my family.

I am thankful to many others who have supported me and given co-operation in completion of this work.

Vasant K. More