ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It gives me immense pleasure to express my esteem and profound sense of gratitude to my research guide Dr. J.B. Ambekar (Yadav), Department of Sociology, Shivaji University, Kolhapur for suggesting the research problem and for thought provoking discussion, valuable and constructive suggestions during the course of this investigation. His fatherly guidance and encouragement sustained me all along and helped me greatly in M. Phil Sociology. I consider it to be my greatest fortune and honour to have been given opportunity to work under him. No words are adequate to express my thankfulness to him.

I feel pleasure to express my deepest felling of gratitude to all the teachers in the Department namely Prof. S.A. Salunkhe, Prof. R.B.Patil, Prof. D. Shrikant, Pro. R.N. Salve, Prof. B.N. Kendre, Dr.Pratibha Desai, and Ms. Rita Malache who have rendered their co-operation throughout the completion of this work.

Supporting encouragement and guidance always has to be appreciated and I sincerely acknowledge thanks to my senior Dr. Dhanaraj A. Patiil, Dr. Arjun Jadhav and Dr. R.J.Katti.

I am fortunate enough to have such company of friends who always pushed me ahead on the path of progress. I owe a great deal of thanks to them: Anjali, Rashmi, Priya, Shamuwel, Pradip, Dilip, Sachin, Sunil, Bajirao, Amol, Namdev and Rahul. I must thank my M. Phil

colleagues Ujvala, Sarika, Amol Patil, Amol Chokakar, Avinash A. Kamble,

Avinash Shivaji Kamble, Dhanaji and Akhilesh.

For the sample survey my thanks are due to the farmers of

Kathevadi village and Malegaon village, who were very co-operative in

rendering information to me.

Everlasting words seems to be inadequate to express my

indebtedness to my beloved mother Hemalata, elder sister Varsha and her

husband Rangrao, loving younger sister Nisha, dear brother Prashant and

sister-in- law Shradha, my dear nephews Pradip and Prathamesh and niece

Prajakta and lovely sweet grad-niece Abhilasha, for their exemplary

enthusiasm, supreme sacrifice, moral courage, motivation and support

through ramifying path of my career.

I thank Mr. Arun Shivaji Kamble for typing neatly the final draft

of the present dissertation.

During the completion of this investigation many known and

unknown hands pushed me forth and put me on the right track by their

knowledge and experience. I am ever thankful to the authors of past and

present whose literature has been cited by me and also listed in the

bibliography.

Place: Shivaji University, Kolhapur.

Date:

Patil Vinayak Dinakar

vi