

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am very fortunate to have worked under the supervision of Dr. R.N.Rattihalli, Reader, Department of Statistics, Shivaji University, Kolhapur. I feel short of words to express my deep sense of indebtedness and gratitude to him for his inspiring guidance, enlightening discussions, constant encouragement and a critical approach at every stage till the work is accomplished and the dissertation is written.

I am very grateful to Dr. M.S. Prasad, Professor and Head, Department of Statistics, Shivaji University, Kolhapur for providing me the necessary research facilities.

I express my sincere thanks to Prof. S.R. Kulkarni and Prof. B.V. Dhandra for their kind help and encouragement from time to time.

My thanks are also due to the University Grants Commission, New-Delhi, for granting me a Teacher Fellowship under the faculty improvement programme to complete the M.Phil degree.

I also thank the authorities of Shri Shivaji Shikshan Prasarak Mandal and the Principal T.S. Supe, Shri Shivaji Mahavidhalaya, Barsi for having granted me a study leave for a period of one year.



GANGADHAR GADHE