ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I strongly acknowledge the financial support of University Grants Commission, New Delhi, India to undertake this work. Otherwise of such support, it would not have been possible to complete the work in this stipulated period. I would like to extend my deep sense of gratitude towards University Authorities for their continuous encouragement and moral support.

I am very much grateful to Dr. D. T. Shirke, Professor and Head, Department of Statistics, Shivaji University Kolhapur and Dr. H. V. Kulkarni, Associate Professor, Department of Statistics, Shivaji University, Kolhapur for their kind help.

I am also thankful to Dr. S. R. Kulkarni, Innovative Labs, Bangalore; Dr. S. V. Kakade, Krishna Institute of Medical Science, Karad; Dr. V. B. Ghute, Solapur University, Solapur and Dr. A. V. Dorugade, Yashvantrao Chavan College, Halkarni (Kolhapur) for the fruitful discussion I had with them.

I appreciate the co-operation, patience and the excellent computational skills of the Project Fellows Mr. Deepak Sakate and Mr. Nileshkumar Jadhav. I also acknowledge the co-operation of the university office in all respect.

Dr. D. N. Kashid