ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Bowing to the lotus feet of my Guru, I thank the almighty with the grace of whose blessings I treaded on this alleyway of search.

My study on the ecology and biodiversity of the Saurashtra coast has been extensive, very exciting and instructive. It is a pleasure to thank to all those who made this thesis possible for me with their help, support and encouragements.

First, I would like to pay my gratitude to Prof..Bonny Pillo (Retd) whom with his efforts and motivation directed me to my guide and encouraged me for research in this field of Marine Ecology and Biodiversity.

I express my deep and sincere gratitude to my guide, one of the best teachers I came across, Dr. B. Suresh. I am indebted to him. His wide knowledge and his logical way of thinking have been a great value throughout my tenure of research. His understanding, encouraging and personal guidance, his insistence for meticulous work and perfection have provided me a good basis to bring out the best in me.

I acknowledge my profound gratefulness to Late Dr.Rabin SenGupta, a very eminent scientist from the National Institute of Oceanography, Goa for giving me an opportunity to be a pat of his DST project related to the study of ecology and biodiversity of Saurashtra coast. I would also like to thank Dr. Diwakar sharma of Gujarat Ecological Society for considering me eligible to be part of this society, The GES provided me the opportunity to participate in numerous cruises conducted during the study of the Gulf of Khambatt and Narmada Basin. Thus, giving me a platform to perform all my research work both practically and theoretically.

I extend my thanks to Dr. Raghunathan whose painstaking efforts helped me in learning to identify marine plankton to near extent. I am also thankful to Mr. Unmesh Vangikar for helping me to perform all the hydrological analysis of Seawaters.

I am extremely grateful to Dr. Vijaykumar Rathod (Scientist) at National Institute of Oceanography for his generous help extended to me in various ways in completing my thesis.

I would also like to state my gratitude to Dr. Satish Shetye (Director of National Institute of oceanography) for his approval for availing all the facilities at the institute. My special thanks to the Dr. Tapaswi (Chief librarian) at NIO, Goa for his consent to utilize the library amenities to its fullest.

I would like to thank Dr. Nilesh Bhatt, Depat of Geology, M.S. University for some of geological details that he provided to me.

I extend special thanks to Dr. Srivastava, Dept of Statistics, for assisting me for the interpretation of the statistical data of my study.

Acknowledgment

I am thankful to Prof. A.V. Ramachandran, Head of the Department, providing an access to the laboratory facilities. I would also like to thank Dr. Pragna Parikh and Dr. Dolly Kumar for their encouragement and support. I thank all other teachers for helping me directly or indirectly during the entire tenure of my study.

From the depth of my heart, I say thank you!!!!!!! to Dr. Isha Desai for her invaluable backing. She was always there as a great friend and a teacher.

My sincere thanks to all non-teaching staff members for whatever help they provided from their end.

Reena, Gauri, Priyanka, Praytush and Ayaz. Without their help and prop up it would have been very difficult for me to finish off this work. Thanks to all of them.

I graciously acknowledge some of my friends Dolly, Kamini and hostel mates Nitu and Parveen who made my moments lighter and always filled it with happiness. My special thanks to my best friend Anjum, for being very perceptive and affectionate during the strenuous period of this Ph.D. course.

I owe a lot to my family, my most heartfelt gratitude each one of them. It's beyond my words to express. Very Supportive in-laws and brother-in- law Ratish, my sweetest grandmother, they all believed in me and incessantly encouraged me to complete my studies. All the naughty pranks of my little cousin Anurag made my days enjoyable and warm.

Last but not the least, I am indebted to my most loving Amma and Papa and my husband Rajesh, for his adore, support and encouragement. They all stood by me, supported me, and loved me. Their incessant patience and love is greatly cherished, that gave me immense strength and courage for successfully completing my thesis. With all my love, I dedicate this thesis to my dear parents and beloved husband.