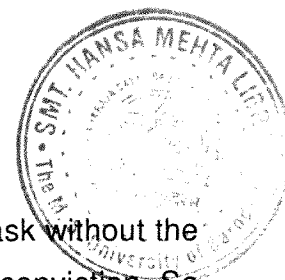


ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



To be able to achieve what I have done today is an intimidating task without the help from all the people who influence my life and believe in my conviction. So here I express my sincere and heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Rolee Kanchan, Head, Department of Geography, Faculty of Science, M S University of Baroda, for encouraging me to take up this work and taking keen interest. I would not have been able to accomplish the present investigation without her guidance in the stipulated time, for which I shall always remain indebted to her.

I am also thankful to Dr. N. R. Dash and other faculty members of Department of Geography and the Dean, Faculty of Science, M S University of Baroda for encouraging and providing all necessary facilities available in the institution. I am also thankful to all non-teaching staff of the department and the University Library for their support throughout the research work.

I am heartily thankful to all the staff members of CEPT University library, Gujarat University, SPIPA, Gujarat Vidyapeeth for their direct and indirect help in the completion of present work. I also extend my thanks to faculty members, School of Planning CEPT University for their worthwhile and valuable support.

Completion of this work could not have been possible without the unconditional support and cooperation from various departments of Government of Gujarat. The staff of AUDA, TPVD, AMC, BISAG, Office of Land Record, etc. who extended full co-operation in providing all the necessary data, Collector's office, Ahmedabad wherein the Collector, Deputy Collector, Mamlatdars of Ahmedabad and Daskroi talukas and all the talatis of 23 sample villages that were surveyed for the study have an inseparable contribution to this research work. My sincere gratitude are also extended to villagers in sample households, teachers, and former panchayat, Sarpanch and Deputy Sarpanch of the selected sample villages, who have readily provided all possible information and help during the fieldwork.

This is the time when I realize the limitations of words for the support of all family members in my accomplishment. Had it not been for my farther, Prof. Santosh Shukla, I would have never come this far in academics. Saying anything further would undermine his contribution to my achievements, past and present. I am also indebted to my mother, Dr. Sushma Shukla who has been an inspiration and a pillar of strength in all my endeavours. Lucky to have

another pillar of strength in the form of my mother-in-law, Smt. Vasanti Kothary. I was driven to achieve the desired objective, I thank her for constantly inspiring me in the times when it was needed most. Special thanks also to my brother-in-law, Jesal Kothary, who helped me in reaching the interiors of 23 sample villages. The encouragement and support provided by my father-in-law, Shri Kirit Kothary, Bindiya, Saurabh and Priyadarshini does need special mention in this regard. I also take this opportunity to thank all my friends, who are an inseparable part of my life and have always been there whenever needed. My husband, Mr. Nirav Kothary undoubtedly deserves special heartfelt thanks for his encouragement, inspirational words, motivation, patience and active support wherever and whenever required. My four year old son, Dhaivat also deserves thanks for his forbearance, understanding and co-operation in all these years of research work, patiently watching me work, sometimes at the cost of his time and staying with his grandmother during my absence.

Once again I thank one and all for their sincere help and cooperation, which is intangible to express in words.

SWATI KOTHARY