

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### Chapter 1: Introduction

1.1 Coral Reefs:.....	2
1.2 Corals:.....	5
1.3 Global distribution:.....	7
1.4 Indian distribution:.....	8
1.5 Coral reef ecology: .....	11
1.5.1 International review:.....	11
1.5.2 National review:.....	14
1.5.3 Regional review: .....	15
1.6 Conservation of corals and coral reefs:.....	16
1.6.1 Marine Protected Area (MPA):.....	17
1.7 Marine National Park and Sanctuary, Gulf of Kachchh:.....	19
1.8 Lacuna:.....	21
1.9 Aim and Objectives:.....	22
1.10 Flow of the thesis: .....	22

### Chapter 2: Study site - Narara reef

2.1 Location:.....	24
2.2 Consideration for current study:.....	24
2.3 Geography and Hydrography: .....	27
2.4 Sub-sites and field visits:.....	28
2.5 Reef morphology and habitat characterization:.....	29
2.5.1 Methodology:.....	29
2.5.2 Results: .....	31
Sub-site S1:.....	31
Sub-site S2:.....	31
Sub-site S3:.....	31
Sub-site S4:.....	32
Sub-site S5:.....	32

### **Chapter 3: Physico-chemical environment**

3.1 Introduction:.....	35
3.2 Methodology:.....	35
3.3 Results: .....	36

### **Chapter 4: Scleractinians' status at Narara reef**

4.1 Introduction:.....	42
4.2 Methodology:.....	42
4.3 Diversity:.....	47
4.3.1 Species description:.....	52
4.4 Distribution:.....	65
4.5 Community assemblage:.....	67
4.6 Health status:.....	69
4.6.1 Bleaching:.....	69
4.6.2 Sedimentation/siltation:.....	69
4.6.3 Coral diseases:.....	70
4.6.4 Polychaete infestation:.....	72

### **Chapter 5: Reef Associated fauna and flora**

5.1 Introduction:.....	77
5.2 Methodology:.....	77
5.3 Associated fauna:.....	78
5.3.1 Sponges (Phylum: Porifera): .....	78
5.3.2 Cnidarians (Phylum: Cnidaria): .....	81
5.3.3 Annelids (Phylum: Annelida):.....	89
5.3.4 Molluscs (Phylum: Mollusca):.....	93
5.3.5 Crustaceans:.....	96
5.3.6 Echiurans (Phylum: Echiura):.....	100
5.3.7 Echinoderms (Phylum: Echinodermata): .....	101
5.3.8 Fishes (Phylum: Chordata): .....	101
5.3.9 Other associated fauna .....	102
5.4 Associated flora:.....	106
5.5 Interrelationship among fauna:.....	110

<b>Chapter 6: Anthropogenic activities: Potential threats to ecology of Narara reef</b>	
6.1 Introduction:.....	114
6.2 Methodology:.....	114
6.3 Results: .....	114
6.3.1 Biodiversity exploitation:.....	115
6.3.2 Habitat degradation:.....	117
6.3.2.1 Dislodgement of rocks and boulders: .....	117
6.3.2.2 anchorage and Boat landing on coral reef area:.....	117
6.3.2.3 Lying of pipelines across the Narara reef:.....	120
6.3.4 Ports/Jetties:.....	121

**Chapter 7: Discussion and conclusion**

7.1 Discussion:.....	124
7.2 Conclusion: .....	128

**Bibliography**