

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank

- Prof. P.C. Kar for his guidance, encouragement and for allowing me the freedom to work out ideas at my own pace;
- Janaki Nair, Madhav Prasad, Susie Tharu and Vivek Dhareshwar for discussing my drafts at different points of time;
- participants of the "Culture and Democracy" workshop at Gwalior and the "Re-figuring Literary/Cultural Historiography" workshop at CIEFL, Hyderabad for stimulating ideas and discussion;
- Rimli Bhattacharya for some valuable intellectual leads;
- Sudhir Chandra for his help and interest in my work;
- staff at Hansa Mehta Library, Vadodara,  
at Centre for Social Studies Library, Surat,  
at National Library, Calcutta,  
at Ramesh Mohan Library, CIEFL, Hyderabad,  
at Connemara Public Library, Chennai,  
at Centre for Studies in Society and Culture Library,  
Bangalore,  
and at Savli College Library, Savli;
- the Director and staff of Centre for Social Studies, Surat for the facilities and warmth during my three month stay there;

- Prof. P.C. Upadhyay, Principal, Savli Arts and Commerce College, for granting me a crucial leave of absence in the final stage of my writing;
- my colleagues at Savli Arts and Commerce College for many hours of passionate discussion and especially my colleagues in the department for coping with the extra workload;
- my students at Lunavada and Savli who have shaped this thesis in ways that I am just beginning to understand;
- my friends, especially Ansari, Asma, Paroma, Pavan, Satish, Rimli, Parul, Joy, Anilbhai, Vandanaben, Parmar Saab, Vyas Saab, Rajesh, Govindbhai, Alpeshbhai, Jayasree, and Tharakeshwar for support, intellectual and emotional;
- Bunu Bhaina, Bhauja, Tuku, Luna, Chinu and Dipu for their encouragement, Raju and Rinku for their hospitality among other things;
- Mama and Viraja for managing the house in ways that allowed me time and space for work;
- Kathya who knew what I was doing and coped with the disruptions it entailed with perfect composure;
- Gopalbhai and Hinaben for their warmth and affection and, of course, for typing the thesis;
- and, above all, Deeptha for her sustenance.

Santosh Kumar Dash