## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

I express my profound gratitude to my teacher and guide Dr. S. M. H. Rizvi for his encouraging inspirations, valuable help and sagacious guidance from the outset to the final stage in the present endeavour.

I am highly indebted to Dr. (Mrs.) Mayaben Shah, the Dean Faculty of Arts, whose benevolent attitude favoured to get me registered for the Ph.D.

I must not fail to express my heartiest thanks to the former head Dr. (Mrs.) Vimla Rangaswamy and the present head Dr. (Mrs.) Jayshree De, for their kind help, inspirations and encouragement in the course of the present study.

My heartfelt obligations and thanks are due to the Mamlatdar, T. D O and staff of Karjan Taluka. It is; in fact, their kind support that enabled me to procure the relevant and required data for the work.

From the core of, my heart I thank all my teachers and office bearers of the Department of Geography for having given me useful suggestions and moral support throughout

It is no less obligatory in the present context to thank my 'Gurubhai' Shri R. K. Mishra and my loving friends Naveen, Amit, Baljeet, B'Joe, Sudhakar, Mukul, Ramu and Samuel who have been helping me both morally, monetarily and practically in the cause of completion of this work.

Finally, I find no words to express the feelings arising in my heart to the favour and love I received from my beloved and reverend parents – my father Shri Khushi Ram and my mother Shrimati Daya, who have ever remained

'dayalu' on me. It is indeed their 'dayabhao', 'ashirwad' and 'prarthana' that Ram ordained me the long cherished 'khushi' of my life. Along with their valuable inspirations are the charming countenance of my sisters, Praveen and Asha and my younger brother Virender Kumar for giving me moral and spiritual vigour. They have been patiently waiting and praying to hear the opportune day of the conclusion of this work

Ravinder Kumar

Department of Geography

M. S. University

Vadodara