



THE MAHARAJA SAYAJIRAO UNIVERSITY OF BARODA
DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

Phone : 329348
FACULTY OF SCIENCE,
VADODARA-390 002,
(INDIA).

25th April 1995

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the thesis entitled Bioregion Common Property Resource Management Studies submitted to the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Baroda, for the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Botany, embodies the results of bonafide research work carried out by *Smt. Tvisha M. Pandya* under my guidance and supervision.

Prof. G. M. Oza
Guiding Teacher



INTRODUCING MRS. TVISHA PANDYA AND HER WORK

One morning about two years ago I was sitting under a tree, when I saw a couple of motor-cycles rolling into my palace compound. Seated on these motor-cycles were a number of young people from Baroda, who, if my memory does not fail me, were sent by my friend Dr. Oza, who enjoys an international reputation as an ecologist of eminence.

On being introduced by someone who accompanied her, I was told by Mrs. Trishabehn Pandya that having obtained the blessings of the Gujarat Forest Department, she had already started doing some research study on vegetation and ecology of this area.

Jambughoda I may add was a PRINCELY STATE prior to its integration with the Government of India in 1947 and merger with the Government of Bombay in 1948. The economy of this area was essentially a FOREST ECONOMY, prior to its merger. This area can still boast of its unique identity as a FOREST AREA and being only 2 hours journey from Baroda still continues to hold some attraction of a number of persons who love nature.

I was quite impressed with the manifestations of a good family and academic background in the personality of MRS. TVISHA BEHN PANDYA and particularly the subject she had selected to do research in; a subject which I thought would do a world of good to this area where my family has been living since the last 600 years and will continue to live I hope for very many generations. I therefore offered to lend my full co-operation and promised to do whatever little I could do to help her in her mission which she had taken up so earnestly in a very dedicated manner. Not that I was able to do much for her but the least that I did for her was to ask some of the persons who lived at the foot of the hills adjoining the forest area to help her in any manner they could and if necessary to accompany her into the forest which she would be traversing on foot to complete the work she had undertaken. In doing so I had taken care to see that she was introduced to the right type of persons who could really help her.

Before I could throw open the doors of my home for her, she told me that she had already made arrangements for her stay in abodings which I imagine were far from being comfortable or convenient. Mrs. Trishabehn Pandya, I may add is bestowed with some admirable qualities like TOLERANCE and PERSISTENCE which are both a must if one wishes to achieve something worthwhile in life. I was amazed at her capacity to walk miles and miles, missing many a meal to achieve a goal which she had visualised with clarity.

I have no idea of the information she has collected because I have not read the thesis she has written but I have not the slightest doubt in my mind that whatever information she has collected will help to prove very useful to all those who are interested in preserving the NATURAL RESOURCES which NATURE in her munificence has bestowed upon this area.

It would be a real source of happiness for a person like me if many others from several universities in Gujarat visit this area and do research in subjects which interest them.

My expressions of gratitude I convey to Mrs. Trishabehn Pandya's Family because without the encouragement from the members of the family she would not have been able to perform the service that she has rendered which I consider to be NATIONAL SERVICE.

With a sense of GRATITUDE from all Nature loving People of this area who I am sure join me, and with personal HIGH REGARDS for MRS. TVISHABEHN PANDYA,

PALACE
JAMBUGHODA

MAHARANA JAMBUGHODA