

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to everyone who has been associated with my PhD Thesis at various stages.

It had been my late father's cherished dream that I complete my thesis. My parents Naresh and Sudha Baxi have always been the greatest inspiration for me in all my endeavors. I take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to them. I must especially thank my husband Paresh for his constant moral support, understanding and consideration particularly during the last stages of my work.

Prof. S. Hasan Mahmud, my Teacher and Supervisor has been very supportive in his guidance. His suggestions and comments have been extremely valuable. I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to him and also thank Mrs. Hasan, for bearing with us during the last stages of my work.

I wish to particularly thank Prof. R.J. Shah, Head, Department of History and Dean, Faculty of Arts for his support, constant urgings and encouraging attitude towards me to complete my work.

I take this opportunity to particularly thank my friend and colleague Shama for always 'being there'.

The faculty members of the Department of history have been very encouraging. My colleagues Iftikhar Ahmed, Aruna, Maitree and Adhya have been very supportive, willingly sharing and lending their reading material to me. I am indeed very grateful to them for the same. Hitendra Maurya, my colleague and Dayanand, my student have been very helpful and I thank them for sparing their time and energy to facilitate my work during its fag end.

I am also grateful to the staff of various libraries for their patience and timely assistance: the Hansa Mehta Library and Baroda Central Library, Baroda; B.J. Institute, Ahmedabad and The Jawaharlal Nehru University Library, Teen Murti Library, The National Archives at Delhi.

Lastly, I take this opportunity to thank Prof. I. P. Vyas, my brothers and mother-in-law, besides innumerable friends who have helped me in their own special ways from time to time.

VIBHUTI PARIKH