ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I wish to convey my profound thanks to many people who have contributed in myriad ways towards each aspect of completion of this study.

While words fail me to express the gratitude felt; I take this opportunity to say that Dr. Anjali Karolia is patience, perseverance and knowledge personified. I am indebted to my affectionate guide Dr. Anjali Karolia, Head, Dept. of Clothing and Textile, Faculty of Family and Community Sciences, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, who motivated me to take up this topic of study. Her intellectual maturity, patient co-operation and valuable suggestions have enriched this study. I feel honoured to have worked under her guidance; and gained from her experiences, in true sense.

I thank the University Grants Commission for the financial assistance extended to me through the Senior Research Fellowship.

Heartiest thanks and gratitude are also due to Prof. Sunanda M. Phadke (Ex. H.O.D) and Dr. Amita Pandya (Ex. H.O.D) for facilitating my study by extending all the departmental facilities required.

"It is the people and not the place that brings prestige to an institute".

I take this opportunity to thank R.D.Sir and V. I. Patel for patiently teaching me the art of dyeing and printing textiles with natural dyes. I also thank Mr. Sant for training me through the traditional weaving process and for helping me explore possibilities to convert Sisal fibre into yarn. The four months of training that I received in two parts have been one of the major contributor to my knowledge of natural dyeing.

Words may not truly express the gratitude I feel for the people I worked with at ATIRA who have helped me thoroughly during my course of work. I could not have gathered on my own the amount of knowledge that I acquired here. No adjective would be enough to praise the staff of ATIRA yet I would like to extend my sincere thanks to some people.

First and foremost I would like to thank Dr. M. M. Gharia, Director ATIRA for accepting my request for two month training at short notice. A heartfelt thank you to Dr. M. K. Dalal for planning of testing and assuring a smooth execution of the plan.

I pay my heartfelt gratitude to Mr. M. Soni, Mrs. Chhaya D. Trivedi, Mr. M. Ladva, Mr. Prajapati, Kalpeshbhai and Mukeshbhai, who have taught me to handle AAS (Atomic Absorption Spectra) and HPLC instruments. Special thanks are due to Dr. Shroff for sparing time out of visits and his unfailing advice and genuine interest in my work.

A greatful thank you to Mr. M. H. Biradhar, KVIC Bangalore, for his prompt and timely action in sourcing Sisal fibre. Thanks are also due to Deepak bhai, Shram Mandi Trust, Sevasi, Vadodara, for co-ordinating conversion of Sisal fibres in yarn and subsequent fabric form.

I express my gratitude to Mr. I. A. Dingdoh, for his prompt action in sending Eri silk shawls from weavers co-operative in Ribhoi, Assam.

Special thanks are also due to Dr. A. K. Mairal, Reader and Head, Department of Textile Chemistry, Faculty of Technology and Engineering for extending Spectrophotometer Laboratory for testing.

I gratefully thank Mr. Satish Sadashivan, Curator The Kutch Museum, Bhuj, for taking personal interest in my work and for using his resources in arranging a visits to Bhujodi village and for helping me to source Patanwadi Goat Hair fibre through the village community. Thanks are also due to Mr. Vankar Vishram Valji for converting the goat hair fibre into fabric form.

I convey my gratitude to Prof. M. L. Gulrajani, for deciphering complexities related to natural dyes through promptly answering a query put forth by email.

Sincere thanks are expressed to the Faculty and Staff of Clothing and Textile Department, who assisted and encouraged me during my course of studies. I value the help rendered by Dave bhai for all my paper formalities, Naynesh bhai for extending all the help required during making of the products and exhibitions, Sanjay bhai for his help with the dyeing laboratory and Vinod bhai.

I sincerely thank and appreciate my dear friend Anuradha who had supported me throughout the course of my study in spite of her busy schedule and family responsibilities. Thanks are due to her husband Rahul for being genuinely interested in my work

My heartfelt thanks to Dr. Rajni Yadav her brother Chetan, for their help in promptly sourcing material required during the study. Their kind gesture is highly appreciated.

My grateful thanks are also due to all my respondents who have knowingly or unknowingly contributed towards enriching my knowledge of the dyeing art.

I am deeply indebted to my Mother-in-law and husband for their constant moral support and willfully keeping me away from my responsibilities towards home and my baby Tanay through the entire period of study. I value the ways I have been motivated by all my in-laws without which this study would not have seen the light of day.

"No colour is ever known to fade as it gives joy to yet another craft person"

Falguni Patel