



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I owe my acknowledgements to a number of people and institutions in the completion of the present thesis. First of all I would like to thank The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara for awarding me scholarship for Ph D. I am extremely indebted to my guide, Dr Aruna Awasthi who's meticulous and sincere supervision of my work, her unfailing encouragement and inspiration, valuable and discrete suggestion helped me in a completion of this task. I am fortunate enough to have been supported and encouraged by all the teachers of the Department of History.

I am sincerely thankful to Professor Arya Arun and Professor B.V. Kamath of the Department of Botany, the co-coordinators of the Environmental Courses in the M.S. University of Baroda, Vadodara for explaining various fundamentals of ecology as an upcoming independent subject. I am grateful to Dr S. Nagar of the botany department for helping me with the taxonomical name of various plants that occur in south and central Gujarat.

During my research work I visited various forest offices and was amazed with the assistance rendered to me. I owe a lot to Mr. Jitendra Pandeya, Range Forest Officer Working Plan, and Valsad for providing me valuable documents dealing with the history of working plan in Valsad. I am in no small way thankful to Mr. T.R.M. Prasad, Conservator of Forest Working Plan, Surat for providing me excellent reading facilities where I succeeded in collecting numerous documents related to the British Working Plan System of Surat and adjoining areas. I am grateful to Dr Iftikar Ahmed Khan, Conservator of Forest, Vadodara who enlightened me on the positive impact of various forest practices followed by different forest communities on the development

of Post Independent forestry.

Dr Lancy Lobo, The Director of Center for Culture and Development had helped me in understanding the various aspects that were involved in tribal movements that had taken place in Gujarat. His Center's library has helped in understanding tribal politics. I graciously acknowledge the help given by staff of Baroda Record Office, Gujarat State Archives, Vadodara; Maharashtra State Archives, Mumbai and National Archive of India, New Delhi for extending full support and co-operation in collection of various data that acted as valuable primary source of my thesis. I owe thanks to the Forest Research Institute, Dehradun for helping me to locate various books and articles on forestry. I am also thankful to the staff of Smt. Hansa Mehta library; Central Library and Ecological Commission of Gujarat, Vadodara.

I am thankful to the staff of the Railway Administrative Department, Rail Bhawan, New Delhi, for providing me with valuable documents.

I want to express my gratitude to Dr Alka Awasthi, Deputy Director, Natural Resource Management, CECOEDECON Jaipur, who inspite of her industrious schedule helped me to understand the basics of ecology and the interaction between village communities and local ecology.

I owe my deepest regards and gratitude to my family members specially parents whose love inspiration and support has helped me to reach this stage of my academic journey. I am thankful to my younger brother Anshul and sister Anuja for helping me in the managing of various datas related to my work. I am grateful to my mother in law for extending her full support during my period of research work (especially when I visited various places) after marriage. Last but not

the least I am in a big way indebted to my loving husband Sachin for his painstaking efforts in formatting my entire thesis.