



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This work is an outcome of aspirations and blessings of many people. I take this opportunity to thank them all with sincere sentiments. This work would not have come to conclusion without the blessings of God, who I believe, is responsible for this happy occasion. I am unable to find enough words to express my gratitude towards my Parents. Their constant encouragement, interest in my work and unfailing support kept me going. I dedicate this work to both my parents, to my mother Shobha for always standing by my side and to my father Raghu for his constant interest in my progress and for his wise advice.

I can't thank enough my Guide and Teacher Prof. Hasan Mahmud for his valuable guidance. I have been greatly benefitted by his knowledge of History and his willingness to part with that knowledge. I am especially thankful to him for reading the Persian texts for me. I am also very thankful to Zahra aunty for all her affection and care that she showed me while I was staying with them. I also wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to my other teachers in the History department. I wish to thank Iftikhar Sir for his continuous encouragement. It was his classes on 18th century Transition that inspired me to take up this subject for research. I am greatly indebted to Shama Ma'm and Vibhuti Ma'm for their support, both personal and professional. I thank Aruna Ma'm, RajKumar Sir, Maitre Ma'm, Adhya Ma'm and Maurya Sir for being there whenever I needed them. I also wish to thank Prof. R.J.Shah for his encouragement and for clearing away all administrative hurdles as the Head and Dean of Arts faculty. To Dr. Bharat Mehta I am most thankful for guiding me through the Gujarati sources and to Prof. Siddiqui and Dr. Wajeehuddin for their information on Persian sources on Gujarat.

I must thank my sisters before proceeding further (i.e., if I wish to live to see this project till its end). First of all, a big thanks to my

sister Pannaga and Sailesh Jeeju, Narsimha Uncle and Ranga Aunty, for making my stay at Hyderabad enjoyable and to Harshita and Dhanya, my nieces, for making it lively & enjoyable. I must thank my Brother Vasu, Aparna Bhabhi, Dodappa and Doddamma for having me at their place in Delhi and taking such good care of me. Being with Sanjana and Sunaina was a lovely experience. I can't express the gratitude I feel for my sisters Chitra and Veena; Chitra for her affectionate care and for 'being there' whenever I needed her throughout this work; Veena for all the help she provided me and the affection that she covers with constant banter and for having a lively attitude towards life. The presence of all my three sisters provided the strength to wade through some rough patches. My strength also increased because of the support I received from my friends. From the bottom of my heart I thank all of them. To Arvinda for being a good friend and especially for lending her shoulder to cry; To Shubhra just for being herself; To Rakesh for being a chatter box and for diverting my attention, once in a while, with his innumerable questions and to Ayesha and Pallavi. I also wish to thank my juniors Ruby, Payal, Afiya, Yogi, Ravi and others. Their presence in the department was refreshing. To my fellow researchers, Ashish and Shubhali, with who I happily shared the highs and lows of doing Research. I must also thank my friends Janki and Lucky along with Rakesh and Payal for translating the Gujarati garbas.

I must thank the staff of the department of History. I especially wish to thank Dave bhai for all the pains he took with regard to my Fellowship. I also wish to thank the ICHR for granting me the Junior Research Fellowship which enabled me to complete my research work with satisfaction. My thanks is also due to the various Libraries and Repositories including The National Archives, New Delhi; JNU Library, New Delhi; ICHR Library, New Delhi; The B.J. Institute, Ahmedabad; Gujarat Vidyapith, Ahmedabad; M.J. Library, Ahmedabad; The A.P. Sate Archives, Hyderabad, The Osmania University library, The State Central Library, Hyderabad, Salar Jung Museum Library, etc in Hyderabad; The Central Library of Baroda,

*Baroda Record Office and Shrimati Hansa Mehta Library, M.S.
University, Baroda. I especially am indebted to the staff of the
Shrimati Hansa Mehta Library for complying with all my requests.*