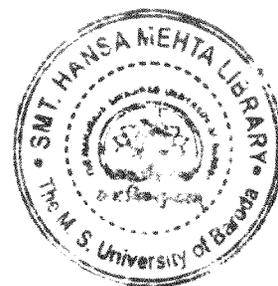


## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



*I take this opportunity to express my thanks and gratitude to all those who have helped and encouraged me for this research work.*

*I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Prof. R. V. Karanth for his invaluable guidance and support throughout the period of this study. I am greatly benefited by his vast knowledge and diligent guidance. Journey of research wouldn't have been so rewarding and wonderful for me without his guidance.*

*I am indebted to Prof. J. N. Malik for his all-round-support during this study. Through his vast experience I learned many field and desk techniques useful for this research work. His moral support and constant encouragement were instrumental for completion of this research work. Field tours conducted in his company are memorable moments.*

*I would like to thank Dr. Michio Morino for his support during field investigations. I have learnt a lot through his skilfulness and vast experience of the subject. His suggestions and comments during field investigations have helped me a lot to improve my scientific outcomes.*

*I shall never forget the support provided by Prof. D. A. Sant, who was always available to me for all kind of support during this study. During initial stage of this study brainstorming discussions with him have improved my knowledge of the subject.*

*I would like to extend my special thanks to Dr. B. K. Rastogi for his encouragement and support for this scientific study during my tenure at Institute of Seismological Research (ISR), Gandhinagar.*

*I would like to thank Prof. N. D. Desai for his kind help during his tenure as head of the Department, at M. S. University.*

*I would also like to thank the help and support provided by non teaching staff of Geology Department. I would gratefully appreciate help extended by Shri. Kenneth Christian, Shri. Kirit Patel, Shri. Justin Christian, Shri. B. Malek and Shri. C. P. Mistry.*

*I would like to extend my sincere thanks to my friends Hardik Patel and Vijay Sumera for their all round support and help.*

*I would like to thank Dr. P. S. Sohoni, Dr. B. G. Desai, Dr. Anand Mehta, Dr. Yogi Trivedi, Shri. Rajpal Yadav and Dr. Sunit Biswas for their support and help during initial stage of this study.*

*I would like to convey my sincere thanks to Prof. M. N. Patel, Principal and Prof. M. A. Malek, Head of the Department, L. D. College of Engineering for their support for completion of this work.*

*I sincerely acknowledge support and help extended by my colleagues and friends at L. D. College of Engineering, Ahmadabad. I am thankful to Dr. P. J. Gundaliya, Ms. Selin Joseph, Shri. A. B. Patel, Shri. Kunal Bhatt, Shri. M. A. Maniyar and Shri. B. M. Agara; this work would not have been possible without their support.*

*I am out of words to express my gratitude toward my parents. Without their constant support and inspiration, research wouldn't have been possible for me. My mother and father accompanied me during my lonely field tours to encourage me and to provide me moral support. I learnt many techniques of survival in wild and ways to come out of adversities from my mother and father. I will always remember the confidence, which my elder brothers Harish and Vijayanand have shown towards me which helped me to progress even when I used to go out of energy. Smiles of Malkaush, Sohini, Bhumi, Indira and Veer have been the largest source of motivation for me. I thank my wife Jayshree for her love, patience and all the joy I have in life. She also helped me prepare diagrams for this research work.*

Mahendrasinh S. Gadhavi