

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

---

*It is a sacred and pleasant task to acknowledge the help I received from a number of kind people.*

*First and foremost I record my deep sense of gratitude to my revered research guide Prof. Bonny Pilo, Head, Department of Zoology, Vice Dean Faculty of Science, under whose scholarly pains taking guidance, this study is made possible. He has not only given me learned advice but also accompanied me during field work and surveyed many important sites of the sanctuary. Thus, he has literally brought me up in various aspect of my present study. It is a commendable Indian custom to start one's work with a sign of respect to one's teacher. My 'Guruvandanam', however is not merely 'mangalartham', it is sincerely meant.*

*The major part of the present study was carried out as a part of the project "Eco-environmental and wildlife management studies on the Sardar Sarovar submergence area in Gujarat". I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all the members of the project, especially: Prof. S.D. Sabnis (Director), Prof. J.V. Amin (Consultant), Prof. R.P. Bhatt, Prof. S.J. Bedi, Dr. G. Prathapasanen, Dr. Y.M. Naik and Dr. N. Radhakrishnan (Principal Investigators), Dr. S.A. Chavan (CCF and principal investigator wildlife management studies) and Dr. Prdeepkumar G. and Dr. J.B. Bhatt (Research Assistants).*

*I am deeply appreciative of all the teaching and non-teaching staff of the Department of Zoology, for their kind help and cooperation.*

*I acknowledge Prof. Subadra Seshadri, Head, Department of Foods and Nutrition, Faculty of Home Science, for her support during the last moments of meeting the deadline.*

*I should like to thank Dr. Nita Shah, Dr. Shahroukh Mistry and Dr. Gangadhar K. for their valuable guidance and timely help during the tenure of the study.*

*I owe thanks to my friends Daksha, Darshini, Dhaval, Jai, Sheetal and Veena, who have seen me through good times and bad and helped and encouraged me in many ways all along.*

*It gives me pleasure to acknowledge Suresh, who deserves not only my gratitude for his continuous supportive encouragement, but also credit for being most analytic and provocative sounding board and critic one could ever wish for. I can not remember the last time he was wrong about anything-probably because there never was such a time. I want to thank him and let him know how much I value his counsel.*

*The help rendered by staff of The Forest Department, especially Mr. K.R. Ladva (then CCF-wildlife) and Mr. I.B.Tadvi (then RFO-Piplod range) is greatly acknowledged.*

*My thankful recognition is due to Mr. Dhananjay Jadhav, Mr. Ramesh Parmar and Mr. Shankarbhai Bhil, who helped me all the time in the field.*

*The financial assistance in the form of assistantship from Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Limited and Narmada Planning Group, Gandhinagar is acknowledged.*

*I wish to express my indebtedness to my beloved parents and to all my family members, whose faith in me helped me so much in achieving this goal. This work would not have been possible without their constant encouragement, motivation and immeasurable emotional support.*

*Finally, I dedicate this piece of work to the fond memory of my father, who with his impeccable ways inspired and guided me in my studies and would have been the happiest person to see me achieve this task.*

*Isha V. Desai*