ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

'Jis din se chala hun manzil pe nazar hai, Ankhon ne yun kabhi mil ka pathhar nahi dekha' At last the journey is near to the end for the fulfillment of the task undertaken alone, later joined by many with their wish to complete it on time.

It is my pleasant duty to express my deep sense of gratitude and grateful thanks to my guide Prof. Niladri Ranjan Dash, whose inspirations, guidance, affection and patience allowed the work to proceed to reach a mile stone, probably a new orientation in Geography and Regional Planning.

I owe my sincere respect for the persons responsible for lighting my research potential in Geography, some of them would be Dr. J.P. Sen (Siliguri College, North Bengal University), Dr. Lancy Lobo (Centre for Culture and Development, Vadodara), Dr. S.M.H Rizwi and Dr. Jayashree De (Department of Geography, Faculty of Science, The M.S. University of Baroda).

I will fail in my duties if I do not express my sincere thanks to my teachers and friends specially Prof. Rollee Kanchan (Department of Geography, Faculty of Science, The M.S. University of Baroda), Prof Shrawan Kumar Acharya (CEPT University, Ahmedabad), Prof. Biswaroop Das (Centre for Social Studies, Surat), Prof. A. M. Shah (Ex-Professor in Sociology, Delhi University) and Prof. Lancy Lobo (Centre for Culture and Development, Vadodara) for their constructive suggestions and encouragement. I also gained much from discussion with mentioned experts on subjects concerning the research.

I am very thankful to my collogues and friends Vallala Sridhar, Christian Montfield, Ashwani Kumar Saxena, Prem Ranjan, Dr. Harshit Sinha, Dr. Sushil Dalal and Dr. Jayesh Shah who provoked, encouraged and helped me in one way or the other to complete this work.

I was helped by many Institutions and Department like CEPT University Library (Ahmedabad), APIED Library (V.V. Nagar, Anand) and Central Library (Vadodara) for providing me their Library facilities.

I am grateful to various officials of State Government especially to Secretary, Urban Development Department, DDOs (Vadodara, Mehsana, Anand, Kachchh and Jamnagar),

IV | Page

DFO, Forest Department (Vadodara), Officials of IndexB, GIDC, Department of Agriculture

and Directorate of Economics and Statistics (Gandhinagar) for their support and timely help

in providing me the relevant literature and data requirement for the present investigation.

I express my sincere and heart full thanks to my students and friends, Pinakin Khatri,

Sandeep Kumar, Yagnik, Vishnu, Pragnesh, Mrugesh, Rajan, Mehul, Hitesh, Pragna, Shashi,

Devang, Amba, Hinal, Tathagath and all others who added to discussions with their constant

participations during the field trips and informal discussions. Their motivation across the

period has helped in keeping the efforts as per the schedule in later part of the study.

I sincerely express my indebtedness to my beloved parents my father Shri. K. Mandal and my

mother Smt. Premlata Mandal. I thank my brother Srikant and sisters Poonam and Kanchan

for allowing me do the things at my own way during the studies and later for my growth as an

academician and researcher.

Thanks to my wife Usha and kids (Smit and Jay) for their time in securing this task of

compilation even after midnight and early mornings.

Thanks must be given to staff at Department of Geography, The M.S. University of Baroda,

specially, Kirit, Sanjay (Patel and Joshi), Sinnarkar and fellow research scholar, Sangita,

Vijayta, Pawan and Tathagata for supporting, encouragement and helping in time and with

sincerity.

Finally, I do wish to thank many scholars, administrators, community leaders, field workers

and people who had met me at various deliberations at state, national and international

forums, field works and interaction in general, who might have also directly or indirectly

have helped in related components of this research work. My thanks are also due to the

authors, whose works have been referred and read for the explaining the contents of this

work.

Date:

Vadodara

(Shri. Shashikant Kumar)