

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I take this opportunity to acknowledge all those who have rendered valuable help for completing this work.

Firstly, I wish to express my sincere thanks and deep sense of gratitude to my guide Dr. Shobha Rao, Scientist In charge, Biometry & Nutrition, for her keen interest and valuable guidance. Infact she has been the source of inspiration for me in doing research. This work is an outcome of her continuous encouragement and guidance from time to time.

I am grateful to Dr. A.D. Agate, Director, Agharkar Research Institute, for permitting me to undertake study and providing necessary facilities for the same. I also express my deep sense of gratitude to Prof. P.V. Sukhatme, former Head of the Department of Biometry and Nutrition, under whose guidance my research career started.

My sincere thanks are also due to my colleagues Dr. A.R. Kulkarni, Mrs. Malegaonkar, Miss Deshmukh, Mr. Ivare, Mr.Gosavi and Dr. M.K. Gokhale in the Department of Biometry and Nutrition who worked with me under the project 'Improving living conditions in villages'. My personal thanks to Dr. A.N. Kanade for her help not only in field surveys but also for

developing computer programming necessary for data analysis.

I am also grateful to authorities in villages and also villagers for giving excellent co-operation for collecting data. I wish to acknowledge the funding agency of the project viz. Department of Science and Technology, Government of India.

I also express my feelings of appreciation to my family members, parents for their encouragement, without which it was impossible to carry out present study.

SB Joshi