ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It is with a profound sense of gratitude that I wish to acknowledge my guide Dr. AS Hembade, Head, Department of Dairy Science, Yeshwant College, Nanded (Under the Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded) for his keen interest, intellectual guidance, continual encouragement and inspiration throughout the course of this investigation and preparation of this manuscript.

I wish to express from the core of my heart I bow my head with reverence to the Almighty "Shri Shirdi Sai" for giving me strength and courage to accomplish my goals.

I express my sincere thank to him. I am highly indebted by Dr. CD Khedkar, Associate Professor, Deptt. of Dairy Microbiology, College of Dairy Technology, Pusad, who has provided research insight and willing help during this investigation. It was due to his unlimited patience, generous and painstaking efforts that this work could be completed. I am also grateful to him for providing the pure culture of the
probiotic strain, which was provided by him for conducting this research.

I wish to express my profound sense of gratitude towards the Management, administration and the staff of Kisan Shikshan Prasarak Mandal’s Shivaji College, Udgir Distt. Latur and Sharda Shikshan Prasarak Mandal’s Yeshwant College, Nanded for extended unlimited facilities for conducted the research for this degree.

I do not have suitable words to express my thanks to Dr. AM Patil, Head, Deptt. of Dairy Science, Shivaji College, Udgir Distt. Latur and Dr. BR Chavan, Head, Deptt. of Dairy Science, Maharashtra Udaygiri College, Udgir Distt. Latur for their positive criticism, extending the laboratory facilities and suggestions during the entire research work.

I take a great deal of pleasure in expressing my sincere gratitude to my better half Dr. Ashish, who despite of his busy schedule continuously encouraged me during the course of this study. I sincerely feel that without his love and support this work would have not
completed. Similarly, I would like to mention the contribution rendered by my son, Nipun, who has sacrificed my company during completion of this work, for which I feel really sorry to him.

I would like to place on record the blessings of my parents and my father-in-law and mother-in-law due to whom the work is timely completed. Words are not enough to express my heartfelt feelings of love and indebtedness to my brother Er. Shailesh and Er. Mrs. Dhruvi Deosarkar, my sister Dr. Shilpa and brother-in-law Dr. Sanjay Raut and nice Mr. Agraj for their continuous encouragements and cooperation throughout this investigation.

My deepest sense of appreciation and love to the family members, especially my brother-in-law Mr. Vaibhav Kadam, Sister-in-law Dr. Sangita Maske and Mrs. Vaishali Jadhav for their care and invaluable support.

I would like to place on record my deepest sense of gratitude towards Dr. DN Bajad, Dr. SD Kalyankar, Mrs. Kartika Mahajan, Dr. AR Sarode, Dr.
MR Patil for their constructive criticism and suggestions during the entire research work.

I do not have any suitable words in my vocabulary to express my thanks to Dr. Acharya, Ex. Head, Deptt. of Computer Science & Statistics, Marathwada Agriculture University, Parbhani for providing the software for Statistical Analysis of the data.

I am thankful to the parents of children and the children, who toiled hard during their participation in the feeding trials conducted for the research work embodied in this thesis.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all the staff members of College of Dairy Technology, Warud (Pusad) for their continuous encouragement during this study.

Last but not least thanks are due to M/s. Shivaraj Offset Printers, Pusad and M/s. Seema Xerox, Pusad for timely type setting and printing this thesis.
I also would like to mention my thanks to those who are directly or indirectly helped me during the entire course of this study.

Place: Nanded
Date: August 17th, 2013

(Sheetal S. Deosarkar)