Acknowledgements

The Madhya Pradesh Human Development Report Project has been able to fulfill its mandate well within its deadline of 180 days from the date of commencement (April 3, 1995) with the support of a multitude of people. While the project team has worked long hours for their objectives, we were greatly helped and encouraged by the cooperation and dedicated assistance of many individuals. In the course of our interaction with them, our understanding of the very notions on which we were offering our expertise deepened greatly. Formal notes such as this cannot capture our debt of gratitude to them. Still we would like to list and thank those whose contributions were vital for our efforts. The responsibility for any error and omissions is, of course, ours.

In course of our visits to the districts (and the Project team traveled to all forty-five districts in the state) we had the privilege of interacting with officials of the development administration at the district, block and village level. From them, from voluntary workers in NGOs and from representatives of the newly empowered Panchayats, we have learnt a lot regarding the processes of data generation at the grass roots level. Our interactions with patwaris, kotwaris and village-level workers have given us valuable insights into the process and enterprise of development in Madhya Pradesh. This report has been greatly enriched by their contributions. We can only hope this report will reflect the magnitude of their tasks and the crucial role they play in the structure and process of human development.

We thank all District Collectors, Project Officers of DRDAs, District Statistical Officers and District informatics Officers, who gave liberally of their time, attention and resources to ensure the successful completion of this report. Here we would like to especially thank Shri D.S. Rai, Collector, Raisen District, for his total support to the project, and, in particular, towards data collection for the intensive pilot study conducted by us in Raisen district.

In Delhi, Shri Bhaskar Bhattacharjee, Shri N.R. Banerjee, and Dr. David Baker provided intellectual and bibliographic inputs. Dr. S. Mahendra Dev in Bombay gave us valuable suggestions regarding the design and format of the report. Shri S.C Behar, Shri Rakesh Sahni, Shri A.N. Asthana, Shri R.S. Sirohi, Shri R. Parasuram, Smt Amita Sharma, Shri Vivek Dhand, and their colleagues in the Government of Madhya Pradesh were most helpful in both conceptualising the design of the project and in facilitating access to data. We would especially like to thank Shri Sumit Bose and Dr. M.N. Kulkarni for guidance in reviewing the background material for the report.

In course of this study, Shri M.K. Naresh, Smt Jyoti Goliate, Shri Sultan Ahmad and their Colleagues from the Directorate of Institutional Finance were extremely helpful and cooperative. We would like to thank Shri Shamimuddin and other personnel, particularly the library staff of the Directorate of Economics and Statistics.

We thank Dr. N. Seshagiri for providing NICNET access to this project. Shri J.P. Sharma and Shri Ashutosh Pandit helped us utilise NICMail for coordination with district administrations throughout Madhya Pradesh.

Contributors from all over Madhya Pradesh have provided several case studies, which have been used in this report. We are grateful to all the contributors, and would like to especially mention Shri Harsh Mander, Shri Mihir Shah and the District Collectors of Rajnandgaon, Bhind, Betul, Raigarh, Indore, Jhabua, Jabalpur and Gwalior. Dr. T. P. Sharma
and Dr. Ilina Sen have contributed important background material on health and gender respectively. We wish to thank them for supporting this project.

We wish to thank Smt. Alpana Khare for designing, report layout and publication support.

Finally, Shri R. Gopalakrishnan has been a pillar of support to the project team. We have benefited greatly from his advice, and encouragement, without which this report would not have seen the light of day.

THE ADVISORY GROUP:
This Advisory Group was constituted by the Government of Madhya Pradesh to guide and review the Madhya Pradesh Human Development Report Project. Two workshops of the entire Advisory Group were held in Bhopal during the formulation of the Report. The first workshop, presided over by Shri Ashok Jaitley, was held on January 17, 1995. It set the terms of reference for the report. The second workshop, presided over by Dr. Vijay Vyas, was held on August 19, 1995. It reviewed the draft report and made suggestions for improvement. Apart from these workshops, the members of the Advisory Group have individually interacted with the project team from time to time, thereby greatly enriching the report.

The members of this group (in alphabetical order) are:
Dr. A.K. Shivakumar, UNICEF, New Delhi
Shri Ashok Jaitley, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India
Prof. CP. Chandrasekhar, Centre for Economic Studies JNU, New Delhi
Shri Jairam Rakesh, Former OSD, Planning Commission, Government of India
Dr. Jayati Ghosh, Centre for Economic Studies JNU, New Delhi
Dr. K. Seetha Prabhu, Dept. of Economics Bombay University, Bombay
Dr. Kirit Parikh, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Bombay
Smt. Maitreyi Das, Government of Maharashtra
Prof. O.S. Shrivastava, Barkarullah University, Bhopal
Shri P. Sainath, The Times of India, Bombay
Shri R. Sudershan, UNDP, New Delhi
Dr. S.P. Pal, Planning Commission, Government of India
Dr. T.N. Krishnan, Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram
Dr. V.S. Vyas, Institute of Development Studies, Jaipur
Dr. Vinod Raina, Eklavya, Bhopal

THE PROJECT TEAM
The Madhya Pradesh Human Development Report has been prepared by an integrated team led by Dr. Rajan Katoch from the Government of Madhya Pradesh, and comprising of the following personnel from Sanket, an independent multi-disciplinary research group based in New Delhi and Bhopal: Suraj Kumar, Sandeep Dikshit, Ravinder Singh Negi, Rumi Aijaz, Rashmi Painuly, Pawan Khera, K.K. Malhotra, Sharad Malhotra, Akhilesh Tripathi, Jamal Ahsan.

OUR PRINCIPAL CONTRIBUTORS
The report has relied heavily on expert background papers contributed by Dr. K. Seeta Prabhu (Interstate comparisons), Dr. Anita Rampal (Education), and Dr. Alok Shukla (Health). The Hindi translation has been painstakingly undertaken by Dr. Sushil Joshi. We are extremely grateful to them, for their valuable contributions, as also for the effort and the time spared by them for the report.