

Date: 5 March, 2022

To:
PhD Programme Committee,
University of Manchester, U.K.

This is to certify that I have known Ms. Mugdha A. Chimote since 2017 when she was a student of M.Sc. (Geology) of the Fergusson College, Pune.

My first interactions with her were as an examiner of her thesis entitled 'Quaternary Geological studies along Godavari River in and around Gangapur, Nashik district, Maharashtra'. It was evident from her presentation and defence of the thesis that she had undertaken a meticulous study and followed it up with a detailed documentation of the data and its logical interpretation. Her understanding of the subject was manifest in the clear answers that she was able to give.

Between 2019 and 2020, Mugdha assisted me in creating scientific diagrams and reference material through ACWADAM for an authored textbook on geomorphology and tectonics. Her grasp of the subject, capacity to create accurate scientific graphics and meticulously copy-edit the text material has been an asset in enabling this work effectively. What is creditable is that she was undertaking this work while she was also contributing to the teaching programs in Earth Sciences at the College of Military Engineering in Pune.

She has been an ardent student of geology and volunteered to accompany two of the field trips that we undertook (in 2020-21) in different parts of the Deccan Volcanic Province as a part of our ongoing research projects; including one along with collaborating scientists from University of California, Berkeley, USA; Open University, UK & Geological Survey of India. She demonstrated a good grasp of field observations and the subject during these trips.

It is pleasing to note that Mugdha is proposing to conduct doctoral research in volcanology and climate impact of Large Igneous Provinces under the joint University of Manchester – IIT Kharagpur project. This will help in expanding her knowledge and her prior experience in volcanological studies in the Deccan Traps will be an asset to the project. Based on my interactions with her, I am confident that she will be an excellent researcher and will eventually contribute meaningfully to subject in the days to come. She has the capacity of emerging as a noteworthy alumnus of any institution that she chooses to study in.

I have therefore no hesitation in recommending her candidature for proposed research with full financial support. As a sincere and dedicated student, I am sure that she will fully justify all support and encouragement that she gets.

Sincerely,



(Dr. Vivek S. Kale)