Acknowledgements

I first of all extend my gracious thanks to my research guide, Dr. (Smt.) Jayashree, Reader in Sociology, Karnataka University, Dharwad, for her constant and patient direction, supervision and encouragement at all the stages of my research work. I will always remember Dr. (Smt.) Jayashree for all she has done so as to enable me to complete this Ph.D. work successfully and enjoyably.

I also owe my thanks to all my family members for their continuous support and understanding while undergoing my Ph.D. work. In this respect my special thanks are due to my parents.

I gratefully thank Prof. R.R. Gondkar and Sachin Kamble, Department of Statistics, Institution of Management and Educational Research Belgaum for their guidance and help in the area of statistics.

Thanks are also due to the librarian and library staff of Karnataka University, Belgaum campus, Belgaum; Karnataka University, Dharwad; Mangalore University, Mangalore; R.P.D. College of Arts, Belgaum, Shree Devi School of Social Work, Mangalore; Help Age India - Research and Development Journal, Delhi; National Social Sciences Documentation Centre, New Delhi and Senior Heritage Selections, Hyderabad for their assistance during my period of reference work.

I also thank the manager of the Institute of Public Assistance, Providorvia, Chimbel, Goa, for providing me a list of old age homes in Goa and also Fr. Victor D’cruz for lending me the Directory of Church Institutions of the Archdiocese of Goa and Daman, without which my task of locating old age homes in Goa would not be successful.

My thanks to Radnyee Prakashan for the DTP work of my Ph.D manuscript.

My gratitude and thanks to Mrs. Viola D’Silva for her editing the manuscript so willingly.