ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It is with immense pleasure I express my profound sense of gratitude to my research guide Dr. Jogan Shankar, Professor and Chairman, Department of Sociology, Mangalore University for his valuable guidance in preparing this thesis. It is his affectionate support and encouraging attitude which gave me the strength and moral support to complete the task of writing the present thesis.

I am indeed thankful to Mrs. Shashikala Shanker, Chandralekha, Luke Shanker, and Aishwarya for their affectionate support.

I am extremely grateful to Dr. Gurulingaiah, Reader, Department of Sociology, Mangalore University for his timely suggestions. I am also thankful to Dr. Anita Ravishanker, Reader, Department of Sociology for her encouragement and suggestions.

My special thanks to Harini for her help in completion of this work and also to Leelavathi, the staffs of Department of sociology. I am indeed thankful to Veerendra, for his co-operation.

I sincerely express my gratitude to the librarian and other staffs of Mangalore University library.

I am deeply obliged to acknowledge the encouragement given by Prof. T.N. Prabhakar, Principal, Govt. Arts College, Hassan, and also Librarian of Govt. Arts College, Hassan.
I remember and cherish the moral support of my friends J. Deva Kumari, Lalithadevi, Dr. Geetha, Dr. Bette Gowda, Vanitha D., Chennamma Mohan and Sujatha M.K.

I would be failing in my duty, if I do not thank Madhava Jathan, N.G. Bangera, Ashok.A. Amin, Krishna Poojary, Manjunath Kotian, Mohan Thonse, Pradeep Salian, Shiva Prasad, Deepak Bangera and Supreeth Shenoy, Bellare who helped me greatly in my field work.

I wish to acknowledge my admiration to Naveenchandra Suvarna, Sujatha V. Bamgera, Raju Poojary, Mohan Kotian, Somappa Suvarna, Yashavanthi Suvarna, Raju Poojary, Paramananda Salian and many others, who contributed a great deal to making this work a reality. My special thanks to office bearers of Billawa Associations of Bannanje, Barkur, Kankanadi, Kundapur, Mulki, Puttur, and Udyavara for their encouragement throughout my work.

I wish to place on my record the help extended by my husband, M. Prashanth Kumar, without his continuous moral support and encouragement this thesis would not have been completed and my son Master Rohan .S.P. for his affectionate support.

I owe all my success to my parents V.G. Bangera and Radha. V. Bangera, and my sisters Hema, Sarojini, Sujala, and Suchithra, who inspired me and blessed me in all my pursuits.

Nishanth, Sudeep, Manish, Nikhil and Tanishka who had encouraged me, throughout my research work.

It is with great pleasure I express my gratitude to the Mangalore University authorities for giving me permission and help to undertake the present study.

I am indeed thankful to all informants of the study for their kind cooperation in giving me the reliable information with appreciation.

SUNEETHA V.
(Research Scholar)