Contents

Acknowledgements I - II

Chapter 1

A) Theoretical Perspectives 1 - 47
(i) Introduction
(ii) Sociology of Religion
(iii) Religion : Magic, Ideology,
(iv) Humanism and Science
(v) Religion and Other Dimensions

B) Hinduism
(i) Characteristics of Hinduism
(ii) Hinduism and Other Dimensions
(iii) Hinduism and Women

Chapter 2

Review of Literature 48-70

Chapter 3

Methodology, Tolls and Techniques 71-167
(i) Methodology
(ii) Background of the Setting
(iii) Research Design
(iv) Limitations of the Study
(v) Socio-economic background of the respondents
Chapter 4
Belief System 168-205
(i) Introduction
(ii) Major Beliefs in Hinduism

Chapter 5
Rites De Passage 206-248

Chapter 6
Daily, Weekly, Monthly 249-288
and Yearly Rites and Rituals

Chapter 7
Ethics, Organization, Experience 289-328
and Knowledge Dimension

Chapter 8
Case Studies 329-342

Chapter 9
Summary and Conclusion 343-364

Appendix A
The Questionnaire 365-364

Appendix B
Bibliography 390-409

Appendix C
Marriage Rites of Maharashtrian Brahmins 410-416

Appendix D
Hindu Festivals and their Meaning 417-440

Photographs