PREFACE

In response to the denial of human rights such as education, power and property and unequal, suppressive and exploitative Indian social system, a large number of social movements came into existence in various parts of the country, in modern period, to overcome the historical disadvantages and to demand proportional share in the democratic politics and development. These movements were started during the colonial period and still continuing, but due to divide and rule policy and creating factions within the backward castes by the upper caste post-independent rulers to avoid the unity and alternative political platform, lack of coordination at the national level and internal contradictions within the backward castes led to fragmentation and political marginalization in various states and at the national level. But, at the same time, these movements brought the identity and affirmative action policy through Kakakalelkar and Mandal Commission in the country.

The rise of OBC identity at the national level is nothing but contribution of various states like non-Brahmin movement in Tamil Nad and Karnataka, anti-Brahmin movement in Maharashtra, Sri Narayana Dharma Paripalana movement in Kerala and post-independent lower caste movement in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. As part of these movements, the contribution of the backward castes mobilization in Andhra Pradesh is discussed in the present work.

The present study is, broadly, from general to specific rather than specific to general. Therefore, it deals with the forms of social movements in various parts of the country. The socio-economic profile of the backward castes in Andhra Pradesh. The changing political context and backward castes and their marginalisation process in the politics of Andhra Pradesh. Nature of mobilization of the backward castes through four instruments such as Caste Associations, Federation of Castes Association, political parties and rise of non-party organizations. The state response to the backward castes mobilization in the form of policies like ineffective, incremental and inadequate by nature to
accommodate the backward castes. And finally summing up of all these aspects indicates that the backward castes are heterogeneous, stratified, socially deprived, economically class differences are existed, politically marginalized, in terms of mobilization fragmented and state has introduced insufficient policies to accommodate the backward castes elite and perpetuate the dominant caste rule in Andhra Pradesh.