ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It gives me great pleasure to express my gratitude and sincere thanks to all those who directly or indirectly helped me in several ways in completing this work. I owe a special debt of gratitude to my teacher and supervisor Prof Shantha Sinha for the freedom she gave me in choosing the topic and for her constant advice and help without which the thesis could not have been completed.

My interest in peasant studies was stimulated and nurtured by my friendship with Lucia da Corta, research fellow St. Ann's College, Oxford University, to whom the present study is dedicated. She is directly responsible for introducing me to this field of study. She has inspired me with her writings on peasantry and her deep commitment to academic pursuits. The present study has drawn several insights from her writings on theoretical and methodological debates between Marxists and Neo-Populists on the question of peasantry.

I acknowledge with gratitude the generosity with which Sri D. Janaki Rama Rao, School Teacher, Palaparru allowed me to use the historical data collected by him.

I am grateful to my teachers in the School of Social Sciences: Prof Rajan Harshe, Prof Haragopal, Prof Narasimha Reddy, Dr. Surinder Jodkha, Dr. Eswaraiah, Dr. Manikyamba, Dr Sudershan Rao, for their constant encouragement and the keen interest they evinced in my work. I am also grateful to Prof T.R. Sharma, Dean School of Social Sciences for extending the necessary help in administrative matters.

Grateful acknowledgements are due to Dr Wendy Olsen and Dr Barbara Harriss, for their constant encouragement to complete this work.

I sincerely thank my friends who helped in various ways while writing this thesis. Sri Lakshminarayana for making his personal computer and room available to me;
Y.N.S. Chowdury, J. Srinivasa Rao, Meera, S.V. Srinivas for helping me edit the rough drafts and making valuable suggestions. Special thanks are due to my friends the Uppalapati' sisters, Uday Kumar, Mukesh, Nachimuthu and Mohan Rao who generously spared their valuable time in helping me for word processing this thesis. I also thank Rajeswar, Gangaji, Subramanyam for helping me to take the computer printouts.

My sincere thanks to my friends C. Srinivas, Srinivas Reddy, Krishna Reddy, Venugopal Rao, Pratap Ranjen Jena, Musthafa, Subrahmanyam Raju, Kantha Rao, Saidulu, Sandeep, G. Srinivas, Narendra, Vijay, Hemanth Kumar, T. Srinivasa Rao, Mohan Reddy, Arun, Brahmanandam, Jhansi Rani, Pili Villar, Clare Tanner and others who have helped me in many ways to complete this work.

I am thankful to the Indian Council of Social Sciences Research for granting me partial financial assistance to carry out this work. I wish to thank the staff of the Indira Gandhi Memorial Library and the Computer Center of University of Hyderabad and the Center for Development Studies, Trivandrum for their cooperation.

It is my duty to place on record my deep sense of gratitude to my family members whose abundant love and affection went a long way in helping me to complete this work.

Davuluri Venkateswarlu