Acknowledgement

Ambedkar is a highly neglected thinker in India. This has to do with the social composition and the ensuing politics in academia. It is very difficult for Dalits to pursue their education and intellectual development without constantly compromising their dignity and integrity in such an environment. They are ill fated to pursue their studies under their clever oppressors, who can use any means to scuttle their intellectual growth. In such a hostile environment to work on a person like Ambedkar and be true to his thought in both letter and spirit is almost unthinkable. Moreover, there are very few who are acquainted with the thought of Ambedkar. In this regard I think, I am extremely fortunate to work under Professor Valerian Rodrigues, who is not only a reputed scholar on Ambedkar and Dalits, but also has a sincere zeal to promote Ambedkar’s thought. This work would have been inconceivable without him. From its embryonic form to its completion he has been a constant guiding force for both me and my work. He has inspired me by providing deep intellectual insights for understanding both Ambedkar and the problems of Dalits. He has given his complete support in every possible way for the successful completion of this work. On the personal side he has been a great source of strength for me. Therefore, I offer my sincere thanks to him.

I am indebted to Jabin for his earnest and strenuous effort to make this work better by helping me in the last but an important phase of this work. I would also like to thank Sukanya for offering her generous assistance in this regard. Special thanks go to Janaki in helping me with her expertise in editing. Fakir and Dillip have also given valuable help in the process. I am grateful to all of them for their timely help.

Vijay Kumar needs special mention for his unassuming ways and support in numerous ways.

Lastly, I owe my thanks to my family for their constant support.

Krishna Swamy Dara