ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The project of such a kind may not be fully attributed to a single individual on whose name the dissertation goes. I have been benefitted from various sources in many ways during the research - from the selection of the topic to the final layout of the manuscript. Let me take the opportunity to acknowledge my sincere thanks to all of them.

I express my deep sense of gratitude to Dr. Mukund K. V. Lamani, who guided me and supervised the thesis. I have enriched my knowledge tremendously during various occasions of our discussion. Indeed, it is Dr. Lamani who has put my wandering ideas into sociological perspective. Working with him was simply great.

Prof. Mallikarjun Patil, as the Chairperson of the department, has always been cooperative. I am thankful to him for his constructive ideas and support. Also, my teachers in the department, Prof. Chandrama S. Kanagali, Prof. Krishnakumari Manavalli, Prof. Shamala Ratnakar, Dr. Ashok Hulibandi, Dr. N. H. Kallur, and the teachers of other departments gave suggestions and critical comments at various stages, which have shaped the contents of my analysis as well as the methodology. I owe each of them a lot.

My grateful thanks to, Prof. K. G. Bhuvanamaheswari, Prof. B. Y. Naik (Bangalore University), Dr. Shivakumar Hirenallur (Tumkur Univerisy), Dr. Thriyambakam, Sanjay, Anil Kumar, Javeria Nausheen, Nikunj Trivedi, Pallavi Vasishta (JGI), who have been source of inspiration in various ways. I have discussed with all of them the framework of this project at the initial stage. I also thank my teachers Chitralekha and Prof. Chitra Panikkar, who taught me with great affection, and doubled my interest in studies. I sincerely regard all of them.
I also extend my thanks to my friends, Asma Melinamani (CUK), Qamar Jahan (JNU), Sunilreddy, Iqbal, Devraj, Manjunath, Siddalingappa, Basu Dalawai, Umesh and other research colleagues, friends from different states as well as universities who have always provided food for my thought and added beauty to my thesis. I am sure, they will discover their ideas while they uncover the pages.

I thank the academic, non-academic and Dr. Basavanal Library staff of KUD, Central Library of EFLU, and Indira Gandhi Library of HCU, for providing source material. Also I remember the publishers of my research articles.

This research wouldn’t be possible without the blessings of my mother and father, and the moral support of my brother, sister, sister-in-law and Momi Borgohain. They have instilled strength in me to endure any difficult situation in course of the research. Therefore, mere ‘thanks’ is not enough to show my gratitude to them.

Finally, I remember each and everyone who has helped me in any manner, during the preparation of this project. However, I personally bear the responsibility for any deficiency, if any.

Shrinivas K.