PREFACE.

My journey on the path of research has been long and chequered. Initially, in 1961, the topic of research that I got registered, was "Historical Geography of Dakshina-Kosala". In the summer of 1962, a friend of mine took me to the "Chhattisgarh Ka Khajuraho" (for that is how it was popularly known as)- Bhoramdeo - near Kawardha. Though quite impressed about by the richness of the art of the temple and its beautiful natural surroundings, hardly did I know then, that the same may some day occupy my attention, along with other temples of the area, to take them up for the purpose of research-work and write a thesis for the degree of Ph.D.

In the summer of 1966, I happened to visit the ancient temple-sites of Aihole, Badanik and Pattadakal in Bijapur district of Karnataka. The temples built at these and some other neighbouring sites were built during the early Chalukyan (Western) dynasty. That was the first time I noticed that the study of temple-art was the subject I should have opted for my degree of Ph.D. But it was not however, before my successive visits at the temple-sites of Kosala (Chhattisgarh) area during the summers of 1973, 1976 and 1977 that I finally got the topic of the present thesis registered for the purpose. Although, my study and investigation in the field has been almost continuous since, but certain family liabilities and ill-health could not permit me to maintain the pace and regularity to bring about
an early completion and submission of the thesis.

As far the approach to the study of the subject adopted by me, I have humbly, to submit that I have deliberately avoided the normal practice followed by the researchers in this discipline, to devote two separate chapters on the geographical and historical background respectively. In light of the works already completed successfully and dealing with these two aspects of ancient Dakshina Kosala, I do not think I could have done justice with my own work by borrowing the data from them. I have, therefore, stressed on the religious background of the area, touching upon the former two very briefly where needed.

I express my heart-felt sense of gratitude to my Guru Prof. S. Pandey, Head of the Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology, Dr. Hari Singh Gour, Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar, whose constant efforts to encourage me, during my spells of illness and relaxations, have been a great source of inspiration to me. But for him, I think, it would have taken me longer to complete the work so that it could take the shape of a thesis. I am also grateful to my colleagues Shri S.D. Misra, Dr. S.K. Pandey and Dr. V.D. Jha, who have been, during the discussion on the subject, advancing their valuable suggestions. I had an opportunity of visiting some of the temple-sites in company of Dr. Pandey, Dr. Jha kindly allowed me to utilise the negatives of some temples of the
Bastar district. I express my heart-felt gratitude to my friend Dr. V.S. Thakur of Durga Mahavidyalaya, Raipur who very kindly volunteered to help me prepare some temple-plans. He was also helpful in informing me of the exact location of some sites and the routes thereto.

I am equally grateful to Dr. R.N. Mishra, Prof. and Head of the Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology Department, Jiwaji University, Gwalior for having kindly informed me 1976 about the newly discovered temples of Derani and Jethani at Tala.

I am thankful to my brothers-in-law, Dr. S.K. Adwani and Shri N.L. Adwani, who used to accompany me to the visit of some sites to Dr. G.C. Kesarwani, a friend of mine in whose company I visited some sites in the hilly and forest-infested area of Rajnandgaon district.

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The result of my labour is before the specialists in the field. I can only hope, that, the God Almighty, who has been the real source of my inspiration and strength so far, may continue to do so in my pursuit of the knowledge in the future as well.

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