ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

With great pleasure, I am extremely grateful and supremely thankful to my beloved excellent teacher and Research Supervisors Prof. Y. V. Ramanaiah, Professor and Chairman, Board of Studies, Department of Geography, S.K.University, Anantapur for his benevolent guidance, constant encouragement, affection and valuable suggestions at every stage in completion of the research work most successfully.

I sincerely acknowledge my thanks to Dr. M. Sambasiva Rao, Professor and Head, Department of Geography, S.K.University, Anantapur and Dr. K. Ravindra Reddy, Dr. A.Krishna Kumari and Miss. S. Madhuri for their moral support and continuous encouragement in the completion of my research work.

Externely thankful to B.Hanumantha Rao, Deputy Director of NIRD, Hyderabad and Suman Chandra, Deputy Director of NIRD, Hyderabad for there timely help in the statistical analysis and encouragement.

I am particularly thankful to Prof. K. L A. P Sharma, Department of Statistics, S.K.University, Anantapur, Dr.M.D. Bhavayah, Department of Economics and M.Sreedhar, Social work and M. Amarnath Das, Department of Sociology who has helped me in computing and analysing the sample survey data.
I am highly obliged to my parents M. Luther Pusha, M. Mary Shikamani, and my brother-in-law G. Babu Rao, Lecturer in Zoology, Hyderabad and my brothers M. Raju & Charly and my sisters and brother-in-laws B. Sara Rao, B. Krupa Rao, M. Rani Prasad, D. Janaki Ravi, M. Sham Vijay for their continuous help, encouragement and everylasting blessings.

My special thanks to my dear friends, Madhuri and my colleagues who have helped me in getting my thesis type.

I express my gratitude to the officers of the chief planning office, Anantapur and the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad, for providing facilities to collect data pertaining to this work.

My thanks are also due to Sambaiah, Lakshmi Graphics for their excellent typing and Laser printing of the thesis.

M. Rupa Rani