ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This thesis is the end of my journey in obtaining my Ph.D. I have not traveled in a vacuum on this journey. This thesis has been kept on track and been seen through to completion with the support and encouragement of numerous people including my well-wishers, my friends, colleagues and various institutions. At the end of my thesis work, I would like to thank all those people who made this thesis possible and an unforgettable experience for me. It is a pleasant task to express my thanks to all those who contributed in many ways to the success of this study and made it an unforgettable experience for me.

First and foremost, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to my research guide Dr. M. Annapurna, Professor and Chairperson, DOS in Anthropology, University of Mysore, for introducing me to this exciting field of social science and for her dedicated help, advice, inspiration, encouragement and continuous support, throughout my Ph.D. Her enthusiasm, integral view on research and her mission for providing high-quality work, has made a deep impression on me. During our course of interaction during the last three and half years, I have learnt extensively from her, including how to explore new possibilities, how to regard an old question from a new perspective, how to approach a problem by systematic thinking, data-driven, decision making and exploiting serendipity. Every time I meet her, I can feel “the fire in the belly” which she always talks about. I owe her lots of gratitude for having me shown this way of research. I am really glad to be associated with a person like Dr. M. Annapurna in my life.

I take this opportunity to sincerely acknowledge the help of Dr. Chidananda K.V., President, and Mrs. Shobha Chidananda, Treasurer, Academy of Liberal Education, Sullia, for providing me an opportunity to do research in Mysore University.

I acknowledge Rachana Appachoo and Meena Appachu for their understanding, encouragement and personal attention.
My thanks are due to Prof. Rajsheker Reddy for his valuable suggestions and untiring help. I am also thankful to Dr. H. M. Patel and Dr. Vijendra for their support, and Prof. Ningaiah, Prof. Gangadhar M.R, for their co operation.

I am grateful to Appaji Gowda, Assistant Professor, DOS in Anthropology, KSOU, Mysore, for his timely help and encouragement during my research.

I profusely thank Dr. Sheela G. Nayak, Principal, KVMCH, Sullia, for her timely help and encouragement during my research.

I acknowledge my profound gratitude to Dr. Urban D'Souza, Professor of Physiology, KVG Medical College and Hospital, Sullia, for his moral support, encouragement and timely advice.

I thank Vasudevan C, former IAS officer and expert on the Koragas for his support and inspiration.

My thanks are due to Prof. Shakira Jabeen, for her suggestions and inspiration. It’s my pleasure to acknowledge Mr. Dinesh Kumar A. for his constant moral support.

I thank the authorities of the following libraries: The library, University of Mysore, Anthropological Survey of India Mysore branch, CSIR library, Mysore.

Professor Yashodha Ramachandra has been a constant source of encouragement, for which I thank her.

I am grateful to Mr. John Winner W. T., Internal auditor and statistic manager, KVMCH, Sullia, for helping me in data analysis and coding. I also acknowledge my debt to Mrs. Rekha, statistician, Department of Community Medicine, KVMCH, Sullia.

My thanks are due to Mrs. Meena Kumari, Assistant Professor, Post graduate studies in Social Work, for sharing departmental administrative responsibility throughout my research work.
I am grateful to Ms. Shubha Mangala, Ms. Vinodha and Ms. Nischal, Lecturers, Post-graduate studies in Social Work, for their suggestions and inspiration.

I am grateful to Mr. Shambu Linge Gowda, Senior Assistant, and Mrs. Puttalakshmi, Superintendent, University of Mysore, for providing me with all the necessary facilities in Mysore.

I cannot forget my fellow scholars in the Department of Anthropology – Manjunath, and Shailaja. I owe a debt of gratitude to my friends, Pramod T. Mallikarjun and Lokesh for their moral support.

The Koraga community has been immensely cooperative. I especially thank Susheela Nada, Gowri, Mattadi and Kumar, for their helpful interactions with me.

The Integrated Tribal Development Program (ITDP) has been a source of information and connectivity for which I thank them.

I thank Jagadeesh C. D., Dy. SP, Mysore, for his unstinting help.

I thank Prof. Eunice Rego and Prof. Sushma Sones for their encouragement.

I thank my mother, Mrs. Sunanda S. Rai, and my brother who is a father figure to me - Dhananjaya Kuthyadi Sunanda Rai. I would not be the person I am today without their unflagging support and moral courage.

My heartfelt thanks go out to my uncles Rajeeva Rai Kuthyadi, Tyampanna Rai Kuthyadi and Ananda Rai Kuthyadi and my aunt, Mrs. Annapoornima Rajeeva Rai, for their numerous graces and significant affection during my life.

I apologize to any one I have forgotten to mention here.

Sandesh Kuthyadi Sunanda Rai