ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It is with profound sense of humility that gratefully acknowledge the stimulating guidance, proficient supervision, and invaluable help extended by my esteemed supervisor, Dr. B.N. Shivalingappa, Professor and Chairperson, Department of Studies in Geography, University of Mysore, Mysore. From beginning to its culmination, my entire work is indebted to his innovative thinking.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to Prof. Surya Kant, Panjab University Chandigarh, who had taught me initials of regional development planning during my university days. I am also thankful to Prof. S.M.I.A. Zaidi, NUEPA, New Delhi, for his support in the successful completion of my thesis. I owe my endless debt to Dr. Dinesh Sharma, Former Professor, NCERT, New Delhi, for his perennial encouragement and motivation to accomplish this work. I am thankful to Nagesh, H.C. programmer, SSA Bangalore and Purshottam Kumar, ADPI e-governance, SSA Bangalore for their immense help by not only providing raw data but also by serving a bridge between me and school education in Karnataka. I am extremely thankful to Dr. Gaurav Kalotra, Panjab University, Chandigarh and Pritam Sharma, Research Scholar, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, for their consistent support.

I am thankful to officials of Education Departments in Karnataka, especially officers from districts of Bangalore Urban and Bijapur; taluks of Bangalore South and Sindgi for their support during my field visits. I am sincerely thankful to the librarians of NCERT, NUEPA, JNU, CSRD, ISEC and RIE Mysore for their support and assistance. I acknowledge with profound memories, the accommodations provided by Godavari Guest House, Regional Institute of Education Mysore and NIE guest house NCERT, New Delhi.

I place on record my special thanks to Dr. Abhay Kumar, Assistant Professor, NERIE, Umiam (Shillong) and Dr. R. Meghanathan, Assistant Professor, DEL, NCERT, for their support. I am highly obliged Dr. P.D. Subhash, Assistant Professor, PMD, NCERT, New Delhi and for their help during the finalisation of the work. My friends Dr. Sujata Hanchinalkar, Assistant Professor, RIE, Mysore,
Dr. Doddarasaiah G., Post Doctoral Fellow, University of Mysore, R.R. Koireng, Assistant Professor, DESM, NCERT, and Dr. Prabhat Mishra, Assistant Professor, DEPFE, NCERT, were constantly by my side right from the inception of my work. I am extremely thankful to Mr. B.K. Venkatesh, Mysore, for literally bailing me out by assisting me in finalisation of the work.

I am greatly indebted to Prof. B.K. Tripathi, Joint Director, NCERT for granting me study leave for a period of one year to accomplish my research work. I wish to extend my gratitude towards Prof. Sridhar Srivastava, Head, Educational Survey Division, NCERT, for his constant encouragement and motivation to complete the work.

My heart really feels with deep gratitude for my loving family who sustained me through the entire process of research. It was sincere efforts of my mother Sumitri Devi who carried me in her heart and virtually on her shoulders. My wife Pushpanjali Bhagat who literally stood next to me in all my endeavours, I owe my success to her and to my little daughters Ruhani and Seerat for sacrificing lot of time and joyous moments which actually belong to them. Overall, I do offer thanks and praise to Almighty. His grace is truly amazing without which I should have never seen this day in my life. I bow in humble obeisance for granting me this opportunity and blessing me with the wherewithal to rise to it.

Date: SUKHVINDER