ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

By continued blessings of Almighty, Parents and Teachers, it affords me immense pleasure and knowledge with gratitude, the help and guidance rendered to me by a host of people to whom I owe in a substantial measure in the completion of my thesis work.

I am deeply indebted to my research supervisor Dr. K. Reddappa, Professor, Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture & Archaeology, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati, for his constant encouragement, able guidance and enthusiasm made me to complete this research work. I know mere words are insufficient to thank him and convey my true feelings.

I am thankful to Dr. V. Sakuntala, Associate Professor, the Head, Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture & Archaeology, for providing me the necessary facilities to carry out this research work.

I am very much thankful to Prof. P.N. Naidu, Principal, Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture & Archaeology, School of International studies, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati, who extended his help during my research work.

I sincerely express my deep gratitude to Prof. D. Kiran Kranth Choudary, Vice-Principal, Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture & Archaeology, School of International studies, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati, for his extreme help at every stage of this work which made this thesis possible in the present form.

I take this opportunity to thank Dr. N. Krishna Reddy, Associate Professor, Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture & Archaeology, for his encouragement and timely help on different occasions. I also express my thanks to Dr. P. Bhaskar Reddy, Associate Professor, Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture & Archaeology, for his encouragement during research work.

I am immensely happy to place on record of my gratitude to Dr. V. Srikanth Reddy, Professor, Department of psychology, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati, who have instilled strength and support at all times during my course of research.

My special thanks to Dr. G. Balasubramanyam, Associate professor, Department of Telugu, S.K. University, Anantapur, for his continuous encouragement and moral support, during my research work, I express my sincere thanks to Dr. M. Lalitha Kumari, Principal, S.V. Oriental College, Tirupati, Sri R.A. Jayantha, Dr. L. R. Mohan Kumar Reddy, lecturer, S.V. Arts College and Sri. Sreenivas, Lecturer, S.G.S. Arts College, for their timely help and co-operation.

My deepest and heartfelt thanks to my best friends Dr. B. Kishori and Dr. P. Annaiah (Keerthana), for all their emotional support, camaraderie and caring they provided throughout my research. My sincere thanks to my friends Mrs. B. Sridevi, Mrs. N. Geethavani and their families for their cheerful and encouragement. I thank
Dr. K. Pushpalatha, Miss. Viji, Miss. K. Mamatha and others for giving me pleasantness in the hostel, during my research work.

Vocabulary falls short in expressing my love and regards to my most lovable mother Smt. B. Ammanamma and father Sri. B. Narasimulu, whose constant encouragement, profound confidence, immense love and affection made me to reach this goal. I can never repay what they have done to me. What ever I am today is because of them.

Diction is not enough to express my love from the inner core of my heart to very affectionate beloved elder brother late Mr. B. Reddappa, younger brother Mr. B. Bala Krishna, sister Mrs. B. Suseela, brother-in-law Sri. Pushparaj and sister-in-law Pushpalatha for immense love, affection, care, warmth, understanding and support. I am blessed to have them as my siblings. I am immensely happy to place on record of my gratitude to Mini, Amulya, Abi, Akash, for their continuous encouragement and co-operation.

I am gratefully acknowledged the Central and State Archaeology departments (ASI), Hyderabad for their profound honesty in giving permission to take photographs in the temples of Rayalasema. I express my thanks to French Institute of Pondicherry, Pondicherry, who allowed me to visit their Library. I am really indebted to the authorities of S.V. University, Oriental Research Institute, S.V. Library, T.T.D. Central Library for allowing me to utilize the books, journals and other academic resources in course of my research work.

I would also like to express my thanks to Mr. Murali Krishna, typist, Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture & Archaeology, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati, and other non-teaching staff, for their timely help and co-operation.

Finally, I wish to thank all those whose names have not been mentioned here but whose timely help had gone a long way in completion of my thesis.

I acknowledge the help I received from Mr. Madhu, Sri Sai Graphics for aligning this thesis.

TIRUPATI
Date: 06-10-2008

(B. USHARANAI)