ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Endeavours have borne fruit and as I forge ahead I stop in my track to acknowledge the guidance, inspiration and patronage I have received in the course of completing this thesis work.

I am greatly indebted to my reverend mentor Dr.S.R.Patil, Professor and former Chairman, Department of studies in Geography, Karnataka University, Dharwad for his invaluable guidance, constant encouragement, constructive criticism, meticulous supervision at every step and support without which this work could not have been seen the light of the day.

It gives me immense pleasure to express my gratitude to my beloved teachers Dr. S.G.Kadarmandalgi, Chairman, Department of Studies in Geography, Karnataka University, Dharwad and Prof. S.I.Hugar, Prof. Y.M.Madar, Prof. Hemavati Reddy, Prof. Nidgundi, Department of Studies in Geography, Karnataka University, Dharwad.

I would not have ventured to work particularly in urban geography. But for inspiration and encouragement of Dr.N.C.Vijayaraj (Retd.) Prof. and Chairman, Department of Studies in Geography, Karnataka University, Dharwad, Dr.S.M.Hurkeddi, Lecturer in Geography, P.G. Centre, Belgaum campus, Dr.C.P.Hiremath, Lecturer in Geography, Mallikarjun College, Cancona, Goa, who not only suggested me but also helped in several ways to complete this work.
I will be failing in my duties if I do not thank our college principal N.B.Hiremath, Lingaraj Arts and Commerce College, Belgaum and colleagues, Prof. S.B.Amale, Prof. S.N.Mulimani, Department of Geography, for their timely help and encouragement in carrying out this research work.

My special thanks are due to Mrs.Mahalakshmi, Administrator S.R.C.J.C. Sandur, Bellary for the support and immense help.

My special word of thanks to Prof. Chakalakki, Reader in Statistics, Karnataka Science College, Dharwad, Dr.S.S.Masali, Department of Economics, Lingaraj College, Belgaum. Dr.Sailabala Debi, Reader in Economics, C.M.D.R. Dharwad, for educating me in important statistical tools that are used in this thesis.

I wish to thank Dr. S.S.Kallapur Reel. Prof. of English, K.U.Dharwad, for going through the manuscript.

My appreciation and thanks are due to Mr. Satish, Mr. Shankar, Mr. Kamalapur for drawing the final maps.

I must record my feelings of appreciation for my friends, relatives, well-wishers for their sacrifice and love bestowed on me.

(Q. N. Sheeli)