Acknowledgement

I express my deep sense of gratitude to my mentor and guide Dr. M.F. Karemavar, Head, Department of Studies in Geography, Karnataka University, Dharwad, for his inspiring guidance and keen interest throughout the course of my research work. I wish to express my gratefulness for his enlightening criticism and constant encouragement all along the course of this investigation. I am greatly indebted to him for exposing me to new ideas and making me aware of the recent developments in the subject.

I am thankful to Dr. N.C. Vijayaraj, former Head, Department of Studies in Geography, Karnataka University, Dharwad for providing me the necessary facilities and other staff members of the department for their encouragement.

My gratitude is also due Prof. Gautum, National Remote Sensing Agency, Secunderabad for his valuable advice for the use of Landsat imageries in this study.

I am thankful to my friends Dr. A.K. Wodeyar, Dr. S.S. Hiremath, S.R. Nidagundi, R.M. Giriji, Dr. R.D. Mathad, G.M. Ravi, U.K. Tirlapur, Dr. G. Veeranna, Dr. R.N. Mugli, Dr. S.B. Angadi, Dr. C.S. Patil, Seenu Manvi for their help in numerous ways. My thanks are due to Shri. S.M. Angadi for going through the manuscript. My hearty thanks to Mr. C.S. Patil for the photographic work.
I am indebted to the following Government and Semi-Government departments and other officials for providing me the necessary data for completion of this work.

1. Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Karnataka, Bangalore.
2. Survey of India, Southern Circle, Bangalore.
4. Executive Engineering Office, Dharwad and Shimoga.

My thanks are due to Librarians of Karnatak University, Dharwad, Banaras Hindu University, Allahabad, University and Social Science Documentation Centre, New Delhi for providing necessary information.

I also thank to Mr. M. S. Angadi for the excellent work of typing of the thesis.

My special debt of thanks to my parents, brothers and uncle Dr. Veerabhadrappa Jyothi, U.S.A., for the co-operation and encouragement to complete this work.

I gratefully acknowledge the assistance of a research fellowship of the University Grants Commission, New Delhi, till the completion of this work.

(Jagadeesh Jyothi)