PREFACE

The studies on land-use and settlement Geography of India have been carried out by several Indian geographers on numerous sub themes. A great deal of increasing interest has been shown towards this branch by several geographers of the world also, perhaps one of the reasons may be that geographers are very much concerned with the various land-uses that impact on man's life. Due to the increasing economic imbalances in the regions of India the geographers are very much concerned in knowing the problems and causes of such disparities. It is well known that settlements are growing organisms as they consist of man as a major element in the system. Therefore, in order to reduce or remove economic disparities of the region it becomes obvious to study the land-use and settlement aspects of a particular region as they are inseparable parts. Therefore, in this thesis a humble attempt is being made to study the land-use and settlement geography of the coastal Karnataka, which can be of some use to area planners.
In terms of economic regionalisation, coastal Karnataka is an under developed micro region with several resources like fish, forest and human. The unique physical isolation of the region and its poor economic regional development have drawn my attention to study this region.

It was difficult task for me to collect data to make regional observation and sample studies due to vastness of the area and manual labour and amount of financial expenditures involved. It is needless to say that geographical research cannot be complete without adequate data of first hand and second hand nature. Therefore, it has been made possible by all efforts to collect relevant data. The photographs enclosed in the body of the thesis not only indicate the examples but also reveal the extensive field work to understand the spatial dimensions of land-use and settlement geography. I hope that such kind of studies on settlement geography and land-use certainly assist to spatial planners. I acknowledge with gratitude that for this work, I have used the techniques and ideas (relevant) developed by foreign and Indian geographers. I have tried to make sincere efforts to furnish this thesis with the latest available techniques and methods of land-use and settlement geography. In the same way I have tried to weigh carefully the qualitative and quantitative aspects of the problem.
I humbly submit that this thesis is my original and I hope that it will be of interest to students of geography. I completed this research work in postgraduate Department of Geography, Karnataka University, Dharwad, under the able guidance of Dr. S.S. Naregal.