ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am extremely grateful to my Supervisor and Guide Dr. P. M. KULKARNI, Professor and Head, Department of Population Studies, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, for his invaluable and inestimable guidance throughout this research work.

Dr. S. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Professor, Department of Population Studies, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, provided a number of suggestions on this research work. This valuable guidance is gratefully acknowledged.

I would like to express my thanks to Dr. N. AUDINARAYANA, Senior Lecturer, Department of Population Studies, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, for his guidance during my doctoral work.

Thanks are due to Dr. T. Chandramohan Reddy, Dr. U. R. Kalliappan and Dr. A. C. Muthiah for valuable suggestions.

I am indebted to the Bharathiar University for award of a Junior Research Fellowship, which provided financial support during my research work.

The Parkes Foundation Small Grant Funds, Department of Anthropological Biology, Cambridge University, provided financial Assistance to complete my field work. This support is gratefully acknowledged.
I would also like to express my sincere thanks to the Indian Council for Social Science Research, New Delhi, for providing me Partial Assistance Fellowship at the time of completion of my Ph. D. thesis work.

I am very grateful to the Commissioner of Krishnagiri Municipal Town and other Village Block Development Officers for their kind support during the field work. My sincere thanks to the Respondents for their patience and cooperation during the lengthy interviews.

My sincere thanks to all the research scholars in the Department of Population Studies who helped me in the many ways in the research work.

This work would have been possible without constant and stable encouragement of My Family. I am indebted to them for their support, patience, and tolerance.

M.N. SIVAKUMAR