Dedicated to
My Parents
&
Lord Sri Venkateswara
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to express my sincere gratitude and devotion to my Research Supervisor Prof. A. PAPA RAO for his guidance, commitment, continuous encouragement and help throughout my research work, without whose inspiration this work would not have been completed.

My sincere gratitude is due to the Former Director, Dr. R.K. Bhattacharyya, Anthropological Survey of India, Govt. of India, Kolkata, for giving me necessary permission and allowing me to enrol me as a Part-time Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Anthropology, S.V. University, Tirupati. Thanks are also due to the Director for giving clearance to utilise part of the Ninth Five Year Plan Project data on “Growth and Development of Children: A Bio-Cultural Perspective”.

I offer my profound thanks to Prof. A.B. Subhashini, Head of the Department, Department of Anthropology, for her constant encouragement and inspiration in completion of this work. Thanks are also due to Prof. B. K. Chandrasekar Reddy, Chairman, BOS, Department of Anthropology, who had given all academic support for timely submission of the thesis.

I convey my heartfelt thanks to Dr. (Mrs.) Madhu Bala Sharma, Former Joint Director, Anthropological Survey of India, CRC, Nagpur, who was also the co-ordinator of the IXth Five Year Plan Project, for extending full support during the progress of the project work involving data collection. I also express my sincere thanks and indebtedness to my senior colleagues Shri K. Ravi, Superintending Anthropologist and Head of Office, Anthropological Survey of India, CRC, Nagpur and Late Dr. B. N. Joardar, formerly Anthropologist who had helped a lot during the period of data collection and for the brotherly treatment for me which is unforgettable.

I would ever remain grateful to my mentor, philosopher and guide Shri J. Sreenath, Anthropologist, Anthropological Survey of India, CRC, Nagpur, who had laid a path by suggesting the problem on which the thesis is produced today. Thanks are also due to him as he helped from the day of data entry into the computer till the completion of analysis and in finalization of this thesis in the present form. The kind of support which was received from him is ever forgettable.
I express my sincere thanks to Dr. C. R. Satyanarayanan, Deputy Director, Anthropological Survey of India, SRC, Mysore, for his support in completion of this work. Thanks are also due to my colleagues Dr. B. K. Mohanty, Dr. G. K. Bera, Dr. M. Rajendra Prasad, Dr. D. Xaviour, Dr. P. N. Venugopal, Shri R. Narasimha Naidu, Shri K. Senthilvel and Shri R. Rajendra Prasad who had encouraged and helped in some form or the other during my Ph. D. work. Thanks are also due to Dr. B. P. Urade, Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Pune, who had helped and inspired me from time to time for early completion of this work.

I remain grateful to my beloved wife Mrs. Suganthi Bai Jadhav and my loving daughter Ms. Khanishka Jadhav who had supported throughout the work. Their proper understanding and full cooperation in allowing me sufficient time to concentrate on my work helped me to bring out the thesis in the present shape. My sincere concern and deep gratitude are bestowed to my respected parents Shri J.V. Sreenivasa Rao and Smt. J. S. Nirmala Bai who had inspired and given moral support in completion of this work. My Sincere thanks are due to my brother Shri J. S. Nanda Kumar Rao, to whom I had repeatedly troubled for trivial things right from the day of my Ph. D. enrolment till this day of submission. Thanks are also due to my younger brother, sister-in-law, cousin daughter and my parents-in-law for their full support to complete this work.

Thanks are due to my dear friend Dr. Enamala Ramesh Babu, PDF, Dept. of Anthropology, S.V. University, Tirupati, for helping me in all administrative matters and extending all sorts of support, whenever necessary. I also express my thanks to Shri S.V. Lingeswara Rao, Directorate of Distance Education, S.V. University, Tirupati, for his support during the preparation of the thesis.

Last but not the least, I thank all the children and their parents for their salient cooperation during data collection without which it would not have been possible for me to bring out this research in the present form. Thanks are also due to all local village headmen, school officials and other members of the locality who had supported in data collection in all possible ways.

Place : Tirupati
Dated : (JADHAV S. JAYA SANKAR RAO)