ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It would not have been possible to complete this doctoral thesis without help and support of the kind people around me and some deserve to be put on record for their invaluable advice and suggestions in the enrichment of the study.

I am extremely indebted to my Research Supervisor Prof. G. Satyanarayana, Department of Economics and Applied Economics, S.K.University, Anantapur for his constant encouragement and valuable guidance.

Prof. M.D.Bavaiah, Professor and Head, Department of Economics and Applied Economics, Sri Krishnadevaraya Univeristy, Anantapur, who has enabled me to design framework and to apply quantitative methods required for the study, I am extremely grateful for what all he did for me.

I am richly benefitted by associated myself with the staff of NIRD, Hyderabad : Dr. Gangi Reddy, Additional Project Director, Rural Technology Park, Dr. P.SivaRam, Professor & Head, Dr. R.Murugesan, Associate Professor, Dr.G.Rajanikant, Associate Professor, Dr.E.V.Prakash Rao, Associate Professor, Dr.C.Dheeraja, Assistant Professor, Shri K. Muralidhar Rao, UDC and other NIRD Colleague friends. I thank them all.

I am thankful to the university authorities: Prof. K. Ramakrishna Reddy, Vice-Chancellor; Prof.K.Govindappa, Registrar, Prof. Phaneeswararaju, Principal, University college; Prof. Amarnath Das, Dean of Examinations; Suguna Paul, the Controller of Examinations; Prof. M. Jayaraj, Dean of Social Sciences; Prof P. Ramappa, Chairman, Board of Studies; and Prof. M.D. Bavaiah, Head, Department of Economics and Prof. K. Dasaratha Ramaiah, Directorate of Admissions.

I express my special sincere thanks to the Chief Executive Officer, Rythu Bazaars, Directorate of Marketing, Andhra Pradesh and other officials, who provided me required data for the study.

My Co-Scholars in the Department : Dr.G. Raju, Dr.M.Rama Mohana, Dr. D.Srinivasa Rao, Mr. Ramanji, Mr. Mallikarjuna, Junior Assistant and others in the University Campus for sharing experiences and data in the completion of this work.

My sincere thanks to family members of Prof. G. Satyanarayana: Smt. G. Lakshmi Devi, Mr. G.Lokesh and Mr. G.Sai Krishna; Dr. Y.Gangi Reddy: Smt. Y.Sulochana, Smt. Y.Deepthi & Smt. Y. Chandana; Dr. P.SivaRam: Smt.P.Leelavathi and Mr.P. Teja Pradeep Parthip for their moral support in the completion of my Ph.D. thesis.

My heartfelt thanks are due to my beloved wife Mrs. Padmaja, my beloved daughter, Laxmi Lahari for bearing all the inconveniences when I was deeply engaged in my research study.

Finally, my nieces – Varshitha and Harshitha, my nephews – Tharanendra Varma and Dheekshith Varma and my Sister – Smt. Prasuna Laxmi; My mother – Smt. S. Anjanamma; My Brother – S. Sudheer Raju, who have been eagerly waiting to congratulate me on my getting awarded the Ph.D. Degree in Economics.

S.VIJAY SEKHAR RAJU