I am totally indebted to the almighty for the blessings showered on me. Many persons and/or institutions helped me in completing my research work. Without their encouragement, inspiration, guidance, support, and help, this thesis would not have been a reality today. I take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to some of them.

It is my pleasure and privilege to acknowledge and express my deep sense of gratitude to Research Supervisor, Dr. M. Mutyalu Naidu, Professor, Sri Krishnadevaraya Institute of Management, Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Anantapur, who initiated me to take up this research. Despite his busy academic schedule, he has always been kind enough to me to spare his invaluable time and thought in giving necessary guidance. Without his interaction and professional approach, it would not have been possible for me to complete this study. I sincerely thank him for all the guidance given me.

I am also thankful to the Head of the Department, Chairman-Board of Studies, Dean-Faculty of Commerce and Management and all the faculty members of Sri Krishnadevaraya Institute of Management, S.K.University, Anantapur.

I thank Dr. G. V. Kesava Rao, Professor & Dean, Department of Management Studies, Dayananda Sagar College of Engineering, Bangalore for his valuable suggestions during the finalization of the work.

I take this opportunity to thank Prof. Pasala Sudhakar, Department of History and Prof. R G B Bhagawat Kumar, Department of Law, Sri
Krishnadevaraya University, Anantapur for their encouragement to do this research work.

I take this opportunity to thank all the staff members of the Libraries at Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Anantapur, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad and Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore for their support in retrieving the books, documents etc.

I have no words left to thank my parents Professor Chintapalli Rama Prasada Rao and Smt. Samantakamani Jyothi and brother Sasi Kiran and all other family members, for their encouragement and for bearing all inconveniences during my work. I thank Dr. Para Narayana, Mr. D. Adinarayana, and Mr. J. Satyanarayana and Mr. Zeelan Basha for their help during the finalization of my work. Last but not the least, I express my grateful thanks to all, who have helped me in this work either directly or indirectly.

Ch. BHANU KIRAN