Acknowledgements

I have great pleasure in recording my deep sense of gratitude to my teacher, Professor S.C. Dube, Director, Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Simla, who not only gave me the first lessons in Anthropology, but also suggested that I should choose my own community for social anthropological investigations. His sympathetic interest in me has been further demonstrated in sanctioning an ICSSR Study Grant which gave me a chance to avail of the facilities of the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Simla, during the final stages of my work.

I am grateful to my supervisor, Dr. Leela Dube, for her inspiring guidance and very useful suggestions at every stage of this work. It is her keen interest in this study and the kind disposition towards me which encouraged me to complete this work. She has given much of her time and talents to me during her busy academic preoccupation. My indebtedness to her is so much that I can never adequately thank her.

My thanks are due to the teachers of the Department of Anthropology and Sociology, University of Saugar, where I did my postgraduation and then undertook the present study with a U.G.C. Junior Research Fellowship. For assistance in typing work and for general cooperation
I am thankful to Shri Suresh Thakur and to Shri Pratap Mishra.

I am indebted to Shri C. Radhakrishnan, Research Scholar, Department of Economics, University of Saugar, for his invaluable help in statistical interpretation and to Shri Mohan Kumar, Research Scholar, Department of Anthropology and Sociology, University of Saugar, for his assistance in tabulation. I am also indebted to Shri Salauddin Khan, Statistical Assistant, Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Simla, who also helped me in many ways.

Professor K.M. George, Visiting Fellow, Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Simla, gave me many fruitful suggestions regarding certain linguistic problems connected with the subject. I take this opportunity to thank him.

For library facilities and accommodation I am indebted to the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Simla. The academic atmosphere of the Institute and helpful and friendly attitude of its administrative staff have contributed immensely to my work. I am particularly grateful to Professor S.C. Dube, Director, and his personal staff and to Shri S.L. Chaudhry, Registrar.

My grateful thanks are due to the church authorities in Manaroadu and to the people of the village who happened
to fall in my sample for their hospitality and willing cooperation in my activities connected with field work. The names that come to my mind are so many that I find it impossible to mention them.

Words are insufficient to express my thanks to my wife Susan, who unmindful of the many inconveniences encouraged and helped me in innumerable ways with great patience.

[Signature]

Mathew K. Jacob