ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I completed this research work despite many constraints. At one point of time I seriously contemplated quitting because of my financial constrains. But now, with a feeling of relief, I would like to thank all those who made this work possible. On this occasion it gives me immense pleasure to express my deep gratitude to my guide and mentor, Dr. Manjari Katju, who has spared her valuable time and provided able guidance and priceless suggestions as well as prompt and thorough feedback on my work. She has been a continuous source of encouragement to me.

I am indebted to my Doctoral Committee members Dr. Purendra Prasad Dept: Sociology and Dr. K.Y Ratnam, Dept: Political Science, for their unstinting support, encouragement and for all the hours they lovingly spent on me.

Thanks to Head, Department of Political Science, for his encouragement and support. I am also thankful to Prof: I.Ramabrahmam, Dr. Sanjay Palshikar, Dr. Pruthviram Mudium and other faculty members and office staff, for their support throughout the study. Thanks to Prof: Prakash Sarangi, Registrar University of Hyderabad for his comments, questions and suggestions. I am very grateful to Dr. Vasanthi Sreenivan, for her valuable suggestions and critical remarks.

I am highly indebted to Prof. Jos Mooij, Institute of Social Studies (ISS), Hague, Netherlands for her prompt response to my mails and queries.

I am indebted to my teachers, Prof. B. Venkatachalapathi, Dr. Venkata Sivareddy and N. Ramesh Reddy, for their constant encouragement and support. They have been source of inspiration and encouragement.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge my gratitude to Mr. Madhava Reddy, Deputy Tahsildar, Mr. Yasin, Mr. Bhaskar Reddy, Dept: of Civil Supplies, Anantapur for providing data. Interviews and discussions with them helped me to know many practical problems and prospects of PDS in Anantapur. I
am indebted to my maternal uncle Chandrappa, for his love and affectionate help in collecting data from Civil Supplies Department of Anantapur.

I take pleasure in recording my deep sense of gratitude to my friend Sivakumar, from whom I had the good fortune to learn Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS).

I thank Rajesh, for his exceptional personality traits, which made my field work pleasant and comfortable. He was always supportive and very curious about my work. I thank Pooja Anand, my student for her help in my work.

I am grateful to Dr. Sr. Alphonsa Vattoly, Principal, St. Francis Degree College for women, Hyderabad, for her encouragement and support. I am also grateful all my colleagues and students for their support and help. I thank my friends Roshan, Srikanth, Raghupathi, Suresha K.C, Satyam, Rajendra, Saleem, Taj, I.Narasaiiah Chandaiah, V.B, Pusa, Vamshika, Malswim, Dr. Sreedhar and Sreenivas (CESS) Raju and Kumar (OU) Shaji, Saravana Raja, Satya who helped me in many ways.

I am also grateful to the respondents and all other people who responded promptly enabling me to successfully complete the field survey. My heart felt thanks to, Sankar, Nagendra, Nagaraj, Shamsheer, A.K. Sreenivas, Jayaram for love and affectionate help during my field work.

The emotional backing, inspiration, love and sacrifices of my family members and their desire to see me as a doctorate degree holder have made this work possible. It is a great privilege for me to be a member of such a wonderful family. I dedicate this work to my family members.

ANAND