I am deeply indebted to my esteemed teacher and research supervisor Prof A Munirathnam Reddy, Department of Anthropology, S V University, Tirupati for his valuable guidance during the entire period of my research work.

I am grateful to Prof Jacob Jayaraj Head of the Department of Anthropology, S V University, Tirupati, for his timely help.

I must acknowledge my gratitude to Prof M Suryanarayana, Dr P Sudhakar Reddy, Reader, Prof A Papa Rao, Dr V Narayana Reddy, K Viswanath Reddy, Dr G Prakesh Reddy and V Gangadharam Department of Anthropology and Prof M Suryanarayana Reddy Department of Sociology, S V University, Tirupati, for their constant help during the period of my research.

I owe my thanks to Dr Raja Reddy for his kindly co-operation in my research work.

I am profusely thank the management of TTD, Ruya Hospital, S V University College and Hostels, who have generously provided me the required data for the study.

I thank Sr P Munikrishna Reddy for his careful typing of the thesis. I am very much thankful to Dr S Raghunatha Reddy, S R Lasel Graphics for Typing Manuscript.

I owe my thanks to my friends Gowri, Padmaja, Neeraja, Varija, Sumathi, Lalitha, Sudha, Sridevi and Jyothi for their assistance in my research work.

Finally including my family members my husband B Ramachandra Reddy, My brothers K Vijayakumar Reddy, M Chandra Reddy and C Mohan Reddy and My mother, Pedhamma, Pedhanana, Parents-in-law, Siblings, Cousins, Aunts and Uncles given all kinds of supports and never failing encouragement through out the entire period of my research work.

My specially thanks to my offsprings Sunny and Ninny for their help given with little hands.

M PADMAJA