ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am beholden to my teacher and Research Supervisor, Prof. G. Satyanarayana, Head, Department of Economics, Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Anantapur, without whose advice, encouragement and supervision, the work would not have been completed.

I want to place on record my gratitude and sincere thanks to Dr. M.D. Bavaiah, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Sri Krishnadevaraya University, who ungrudgingly spared his valuable time and resources in completing this study.

I am thankful to my teachers, Prof. C. Venkata Reddy, Principal and Dean of Social Sciences; Prof. N. Narayana, who is presently away at Botswana University, Southern Africa; Prof. K. Nageswara Rao, Chairman, Board of Studies in Economics and all other Members of Staff, Department of Economics, Sri Krishnadevaraya University for their cooperation.

Dr. Md. Akthar, Associate Professor, Department of Statistics and Dr. K. Sreedhar, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Rural Development, Sri Krishnadevaraya University, who graciously extended their assistance in the usage suitable statistical tools needed for the study; I remain thankful to them.

My thanks are due to the authorities of Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Anantapur for providing all the necessary infrastructure and opportunity to pursue higher education.
The Officials of Commissionarate of Industries, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad and District Industries Centres (DIC) of Anantapur, Kumool, Cuddapah and Chittoor who provided me the published and unpublished data available in their offices required for my studies. I am thankful to all of them.

My sincere thanks are due to my revered parents - Sri Balam Singarappa (Late) and Smt. Balam Nagamma - whose blessings have all along been a great inspiration in my studies.

But for the love and constant support of my family members and relatives- Sri B. Naganna, Smt. & Sri B. Narayana, Smt. & Sri B. Obulamaiah, Smt. & Sri B. Obulappa, Smt. & Sri B. Satyanarayana, Smt. & Sri B. Sreeramulu, Smt. & Sri G. Ganganna, Smt. & Sri Venkata Krishnaiah and also to my sisters & brothers-in-law; Sri B. Sivasankara and Smt. B. Rajeswari -, I would have been denied of my higher education. My sincere thanks are due to each one of them.

I am deeply indebted to My wife Smt. G. Rama Devi alias B. Lakshmi Devi, my sons: Mr. B. Gnaneswar Varma and Mr. B. Rajesh Varma who made a lot of sacrifices by silently bearing the strain of domestic responsibilities during my absence when I went for the collection of data for this study.

I am thankful to Sri T.S.K. Ramulu, Head Master and Staff, Zilla Parishad High School, Tadimari for their help and cooperation during the completion of the study.

Finally, I thank Sri V. Sahadevan who neatly typed this thesis.

B. OBILESU.