I take the privilege to express my sincere and deep sense of gratitude to my Teacher and Research Supervisor, Dr. G. SATYANARAYANA, Professor of Economics, Sri Krishnadevaraya University (S.K.U.), Anantapur, for his valuable guidance in completion of this study.

I am indebted to my teachers in the Department: Prof. C. VENKATA REDDY, Head, Department of Economics and Dean of Social Sciences; Prof. K. NAGESWARA RAO, Chairman, Board of Studies, Prof. M.L. KANTHA RAO, who recently retired from the service and now working as a member of the Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission, Hyderabad; and Sri B. LAKSHMIPATHI.

I am beholden to Prof. N. NARAYANA and Dr. B. SARALA DEVI NARAYANA, who are presently at the Department of Economics and Political Science, Botswana University, Botswana, South Africa on an academic assignment, for extending all the needed help for the completion of the study.

My thanks are due to Sri M.D. BAVAIAH, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, and Dr. AMARANATH DAS, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, S.K. University, Anantapur, who checked up the tabulation part of the thesis and finalised the schedule of the study respectively.

My thanks are due to Dr. U.V.N.CHARULU, (Rtd.) Director, NIRD, Hyderabad, who read the manuscript and offered valuable suggestions for the improvement of the study.

Dr. Y. GANGI REDDY of NIRD, Hyderabad, spared his valuable time to help me in collecting the necessary data for the study. Indeed his help is a valuable one; I am grateful to him.
My thanks are due to the authorities of library, S.K. University, Anantapur; S.V. University, Tirupati; Centre for Economics and Social Studies (CESS), Hyderabad; Osmania University Library, Hyderabad; ICSSR Library, Hyderabad; NIRD, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad; for their cooperation.

I am grateful to the authorities of the Council for Social Development (CSD), Hyderabad, for allowing me to attend the course in Data Analysis and Processing.

My thanks are due to Mrs. G. LAKSHMI DEVI, wife of my Research Supervisor, for her encouragement to complete the work.

The Sample Women Agricultural Labour in the selected villages have extended courtesy and spared their valuable time with me on my visits to those places for data collection. I am indebted to each one of them individually for their cooperation.

I put on record my gratitude to my most beloved parents Sri B. VENKATASWAMY, Smt. B. LAKSHMI DEVI, my elder brothers Sri B. SRINIVASULU and Sri B. SUDHAKAR for their blessings and best wishes.

Mr. RAMU and Mr. SUNIL, Proprietors of the Ram_Sun Computer World, Anantapur, for neatly bringing out this thesis; I am thankful to them.

...Uma Bandarla