ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I express my profound sense of gratitude to my research guide and supervisor Dr. Y.V.Ramanaiah, M.A., M.Phil, Ph.D., Dip. in Stat., Reader, Department of Geography for his inspiration, inculcation of interest, constant encouragement, radiant guidance, constructive criticism and helpful suggestions throughout the course of my research work. My heart-felt thanks to him for the manner in which he guided with enormous patience to bring out the best in me is unforgettable and his cherished help will be ever green in my memory.

I also express my deep sense of gratitude to

--- Dr. E. Swaminathan, Professor and Head, Department of Geography for his enlightened counselling, insightful comments and timely discreet enquiries about the progress of work which enhanced my interest and made me to work hard and complete it in time;

--- Dr. M. Sambasiva Rao, Reader in Geography for expert advise to enrich the theme of my research work;

--- Dr. K. Ravindra Reddy and Dr. A. Krishna Kumari, Lecturers in Geography for their periodical reviews and thoughtful comments which are very much memorable;

--- Dr. N. Narayana, Professor, Dept. of Economics and Dr. N. Sarala Narayana, Research Associate, S.K. University for their
affectionate advise in doing my research work with confidence and courage;

---Dr. P. Murali, Professor and Chairman, Board of Studies, School of Business Management, S.V. University, Tirupati and Smt. P. Surekha Murali for their whole hearted encouragement providing stimulus advises on my research area.

---Dr. Y. Yagama Reddy, Reader in Indo-China Project, S.V. University, Tirupati for his able advice to prosecute Ph.D. studies.

---Dr. M. Krishnayya, Head of the Dept. of Physics, S.V. Engineering College, Tirupati and Mrs. M. Sujatha Krishnayya for their valuable suggestions throughout my research work.

---Dr. Balasiddamuni, Reader in Statistics, S.V. University, Tirupati for his enlightened advise in doing my research work.

---Dr. B.V. Raghavulu, Lecturer in Political Science and Public Administration, S.K. University for sharing his constant encouragement and hospitality throughout my research work.

---Mrs. Manjula Ramanaiah for her affectionate moral support to complete my research work.

---Dr. Sai Prasad, Research Associate, Dept. of Geology, S.V. University, Tirupati for providing help in Cartographic work.

---Dr. Jayachandra Reddy, Dr. Kesava Reddy, Dr. Bhupati Naidu, Dr. Srinivasulu and Mr. Babu Rao for their timely help in completing my research work.
--- Mr. N. Chendrayudu, Mr. Adinarayana Reddy, Mr. Ramanaiah, Mr. Purushottom Babu, Mr. Sudheer Babu, Miss. Vasanta Lakshmi, Miss. Neeraja, Miss. B. Uma Devi, Research Scholars for their help in all respects of my research work.

--- Mr. N. Hemakshi Achari and Mr. Nagabhushanam who typed my thesis with utmost care and special interest in a short period diligently.

I am greatly indebted to the authorities of Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Hyderabad and Chief Planning Officer, Anantapur for providing facilities to collect data pertaining to my research work.

--- PRAGATI, P.S.