ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am deeply imbued to my Research Supervisor Prof. Pasala Sudhakar Professor Department of History & presently Registrar Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University, Visakhapatnam for his guidance, encouragement and inspiration at every stage of this work.

I express my thanks and gratitude to the staff of the Department of History, Srikrishnadevaraya University, Anantapur, Prof. K. Mallikarjuna Reddy, Head of the Department, Prof. K. Krishna Naik, Dr. Y. Ramachandra Reddy, and Dr. T. Surya Prakash and non-teaching members of the Department for their constant support and encouragement.

I thank the librarians of Sri Krishna Devaraya University, Anantapur, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupathi, Osmania University, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh Backward Class Commission, Hyderabad, NIRD, Hyderabad, ICHR Southern Regional Center, Bangalore, Centre for Economic and Social Studies, Hyderabad, and Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad, State Election Commission, Hyderabad, who provided me necessary data and literature on various aspects of Backward Class community.

I should make a special mention of Prof. R.G.B. Bhagavath Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University, Visakhapatnam, Prof. Amarnath R Das, for his scholarly advice at every stage to complete my work. I also extend my heart full gratitude and thanks to Prof. R. Vijayakrishna Naidu, Prof. A. Satyanarayana, Prof. N. Kanakaratnam, Dr. S. K. Aruni, Deputy Director (ICHR), for their invaluable help and encouragement in bringing this thesis into the present form.

I express my deep sense of gratitude to Dr. K. Venkata Reddy, lecturer cum Assistant Professor, Centre for Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy, S.K. University, Anantapur, Dr. C. Ramanjaneyulu, APO. Bukkapatnam and Sri. B. Rajagopal Naidu for their moral support and encouragement.

I thank the Vice-Chancellor, the Registrar and the Principal of Srikrishnadevaraya University for permitting me to submit the Thesis for adjudication.

I also express deep sense of indebtedness to my parents Sri. Mallela Peddanna garu Smt. Mallela Sarojamma garu for their encouragement and support. I also owe to my Brothers Sri Mallela Venkatesulu, Sri Mallela Chandra Sekhar, Sri Mallela Thirupathaiah, Sisters Smt. Mallela Lakshmi Devi, and Smt. Mallela Venkatalakshmi, for their unstinted support and constant encouragement during my work.

Finally, my sincere thanks are due to my Nephew Sri. P. Venkata Ramana Asst. Manager, Educomp Solutions Ltd, Sri. M. Venkatesh who has taken enormous pain in typing this thesis.

MALLELA NAGENDRA