ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I deem it a great privilege to place on record, with profound respect, my sense of gratitude to my Research Supervisor, Prof. Ch. UMA MOHAN, Dean of Social Sciences and Director, Centre for Studies of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policies, S.K. University, Anantapur for his scholarly academic guidance and thought provoking insights in research pursuits. Indeed, he has extended all possible moral support, inspiring encouragement, and showed a heap of love and affection for the completion of my research work. I owe him or ever. I am equally thankful to his family members for their affectionate hospitality.

I record my heart felt gratitude to Prof. Amarnath R. Das, Chairman, BOS, Department of Sociology, S.K. University, Anantapur, for his inspiring and instructive guidance throughout my research work.

I place on record my profound gratitude and respectful regards to Dr. G. Venkata Raman, Head, Department of Sociology, for is constant help, cooperation and moral support during the course of my research.

I take this opportunity to thank my teachers Prof. B.S. Chand Basha and Prof. R. Vijaya Krishna Naidu, for giving me suggestions at different stages of my research work.

My sincere thanks are due to Mr. M. Bharath Bhushan for his encouragement and cooperation at various stages of research work.

There are no words to express adequately gratitude to my beloved and esteemed parents T. Habeeb Rahaman (late) and Mrs. Nayeemunnisa who are responsible for my academic development, I humbly dedicate this thesis to both of them. My thanks are also due to my brother, sister-in-laws, sisters, brother-in-laws, for their words of encouragement and acts of kindness.

I should appreciate my wife S. Famida for her empathetic understanding, warm encouragement, care and constant support for fulfilling my ambition and I also record my sincere thanks to my daughter S. Madiha Akhtar.

My thanks are also due to Sri. S.V. Chalapthi, Dr. J. Narendra Kumar, Dr. K. Gopalakrishna and Dr. B. Sivaiah for the kind help and valuable suggestions during the course of my research work.

I record my sincere thanks to all my friends particularly Dr. K. Nagaraju, Dr. A. Naganna, Dr. C. Rami Reddy, Mr. M. Ramamurthy Naidu, Mr. P. Srinivasulu, Dr. D. Baba Basha, V. Vishnu Vardhan, V. Rami Reddy and co-scholars Mr. Ismail, Amarnth, A. Madhava Sekhar, Veera Nagendra for their encouragement and moral support for the completion of my study.

Last but not the least, I am thankful to one and all who helped me directly or indirectly for the early completion of my research work.

I. Akhtar Sahajad