ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Firstly I owe Lord Venkatewara and Goddess Padmavathi for giving me this gifted life.

I would like to express my profound gratitude to my Research supervisors, Dr. Mrs. S. Kanthimathi, M.A., M.Lib.Sc., Ph.D., Librarian (S.G.) Retired, Rani Anna Government College for Women, Tirunelveli and Dr. Mrs. S. Muthu Chidambaram, M.A., Ph.D., Professor in Sociology (Rtd.), Department of Sociology, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli for their probing supervision, illuminating guidance, awe-inspiring encouragement, constructive valuable suggestions and continuous inspiration which made it possible for me to complete this enormous research with ease.

I thank the Vice-Chancellor, Registrar and other authorities of Sri Padmavathi Mahila Visvavidyalayam, Tirupati for their support in allowing me to pursue my research work.

I am highly grateful to the Vice-Chancellor, Registrar, Librarian Incharge, Library Staff and the Co-ordinator, the Staff of Research Section, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli and Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati, for their co-operation during the course of my research.

I am quite thankful to Prof. V.G. Talwar, Professor of Library and Information Science and Vice-Chancellor, University of Mysore, Mysore and Prof. R.S.R. Varalakshmi, Head of the Department of Library and Information Science, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam for their valuable suggestions in my research work.
My greatful thanks to Prof. M. Hanumantha Rao, Department of Sociology, S.V. University, Tirupati for his continuous support and encouragement to carryout this research.

I wish to offer my thanks to Dr. Suresh Jange, Assistant Librarian, University Library, Jnanaganga, Gulbarga University, Gulbarga, Karnataka and Dr. B. Ramesha, Reader, Department of Library and Information Science, Jnana Bharathi, Bangalore University, Bangalore for their suggestions in my research work.

Words are inadequate to express my profound appreciation and admiration to my family members especially my husband Mr. K. Subba Rayalu, Advocate and children, Sundeep and Sameera for their co-operation, whole-hearted support and un-flinching encouragement in the pursuit of the task.

Last but not the least, I thank all the respondents of both S.V. University and M.S. Universities who have spared their valuable time in giving me the information required without which I could not have completed my research work.

(D. PRABHAVATHI)