ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This dissertation could become a reality through the magnanimous help of many to whom I remain ever indebted. Words of advice and encouragement and acts of kindness from many have gone into my research to bring it to fruition.

My first words of gratitude go to my research supervisor Prof. R. Vijayakrishna Naidu, who suggested me to take up this topic, sharpened my research insight, sensitized me to the social research and chiseled this research with his excellent inputs. The clarity of thought and the crisp mode of presentation, I owe to him and would ever remain indebted to him.

I am very much thankful to Prof. Ch.Umamohan, Prof Amarnath. R. Das, Chairman Board of Studies, and Dr.G.V.Ramana, Head Dept of Sociology for their words of encouragement at different stages of this work.

I place on record my sincere thanks to Prof.S.L.Hiremath, Prof of sociology, Gulbarga University, Dr. R.B. Gaddagimath, Librarian Gulbarga University; Dr. Shakuth Azim, Dept. Of Sociology, Karnataka University, Dharwad; Dr. R.V. Vastrad, Director, Dept. of M.B.A.,VIT, Bellary and Dr. P. Shivaram, Associate Professor, NIRD, Hyderabad for kind help in this research.

My friends, Sanjay Gandhi, Honey Praveen, Muthyam, Aravind and research scholar friends in the department, Dr.Jaljakshi, Dr. C Rami Reddy, Dr. K Nagaraju, Ms. M. Kalpana and Mr. K.V Amaranth need special mentioning for their encouraging words and help in different ways.

My special thanks should go to Vasaavya Mahila Mandali, Vijayawada and Anantha Net work of Positives, Anantapur for extending me excellent cooperation to carry out this research on this sensitive topic. But for their cooperation this work would not have been possible.

My parents Shri. Basavaraj.C.Hirehal Math and Ms. Rajeswari have been the towers of strength and gave me all encouragement to bring this work to completion. To their lotus feet I submit this Dissertation in dedication. My sweet sisters, Ms.H.M.Sowdhamini, Ms.H.M. Srivani, were with me all through this work and stood by me with their moral support to complete this research effort.

A big ‘Thank You’ to all those, who have directly or indirectly helped to complete this work in time.

H.M. APARNA