ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I take this opportunity to express my indebtedness to my parents who encouraged my desire to pursue higher education and made a dream come true.

It is a great pleasure to express my deep indebtedness to Professor S. Narayana Rao, Head of the Post-graduate Teaching and Research Department of Psychology, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirunati, my supervisor, for his kind advice, invaluable guidance and encouragement at each and every stage throughout the progress of this research.

I am grateful to Professor A.K. Singh, Ranchi University and Professor B. Rath, Utkal University, who responded generously to my request by sending their research papers.

I am deeply indebted to all the subjects of this investigation, viz., the pupils in the 10th class, who cheerfully and very patiently subjected themselves to my testing. I am grateful to all the Headmasters and their colleagues of the various high schools for providing the necessary facilities for testing the pupils in their schools.

My thanks are due to the District Educational Officers of Cuddapah, Kurnool, Chittoor and Anantapur, for permitting me to administer the tests to school pupils and also to the Director of Social Welfare, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad, for furnishing the
details regarding the enrollment of Scheduled Caste pupils in various Social Welfare hostels in Andhra Pradesh State.

I sincerely thank Dr. D. Vasavanna and Sri K. Sivasankara Reddy, faculty members in the Department of Psychology for their valuable suggestions in preparing the Self-concept scale and also to Mr. M.V. Gundakara Reddy, Lecturer in the Department of Adult Education for getting the RPM test (Re-arranged form) booklets resumes for my research use.

I record my deep sense of appreciation to Miss C. Madasri, Miss G. Yerasi, Mr. S.P. Chow, Mr. S.V. Chow and Mr. Varinarayana, who assisted me in data collection; Miss C. Sujatha Pawjee for her kind help in the tabulation and statistical analysis of the data; and to Mr. K. Srinivasa Rao and Miss V. Soujanyamma for their ready help in proof reading.

I am thankful to the Librarian and his staff of the Sri Venkateswara University, for their assistance in procuring the required Journals and Books from other University libraries. I am obliged to the authors of books and various articles published in Journals which consulted for my planning and in the preparation of this thesis.

I thank Mr. H. Munikrishna Reddy, Department of Psychology, Mr. K.K.A. Rangarajan, Institute for Social and Human Development for their technical assistance; and Mr. K.V. Ranganathan, Department of Geology for his help in the preparation of the figures.
I thank my friends Mr. C.N. Gopinath Reddy, Lecturer in Psychology, Dr. (Miss) G. Malini Devi, Mrs. K.V. Ranganayaki and Miss K. Bharathi Kumari, research scholars for their encouragement and sympathy when they were most needed.

I thank the University Grants Commission for enabling me to pursue this piece of research by awarding Junior Research Fellowship.

Thiruvanmaly
November 1978. Miss S. USHAHARI