ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

There is no other satisfaction than to praise to my loving god Lord Venkateswara who bestowed his grace and benevolence on me.

With respectable regards and immense pleasure I take it as privilege to place on my record my profound sense of gratitude and indebtedness to my teacher and Research supervisor Prof. C. Subbarami Reddy, M.Sc., Ph.D., F.S.S. (London), Department of Statistics, for his worthy counsel, constant attention, splendid and stimulating guidance, I received at every stage of planning and constitution of this work. I also thank Mrs. Uma Rami Reddy for her maternal affection, encouragement and blessings.

I express my sincere thanks to Prof. P. Balasidda Muni, Department of Statistics, S.V.U. College of MPS, Tirupati, for his kindness, continuous help and moral support.

I express my profound sense of gratitude to my uncles Sri Dr. K. Lashminarayana, I.A.S., Commissioner for Sugar and Cane Commissioner, Government of Andhra Pradesh and Sri K. Prabhakara Chowdary, Joint-Director, Administration, Department of Woman Development and Child Welfare, Hyderabad and aunts for their parental affection, encouragement, constant advice, continued moral support and their blessings.

I am immensely benefited by the academic interaction, I have had with my teachers Prof. K. V. S. Sarma, Prof. R. Abbaik, Prof. M. Venkataramanath, Prof. M. Subbarayudu, Dr. B. Sarjamma and Dr. P. Tirupati Rao. I profusely thank them all.
I am thankful to Prof. M. Bhupathi Naidu, Associate professor, Directorate of Distance Education, S.V. University, Tirupati for his encouragement.

I am also thankful to Prof. P. Sudhakara Reddy, Head, Department of Anthropology, S.V. U. College of, Tirupati and Sri K. Venakataramana Raju for their help and encouragement.

And above all I wish to my personal sentiments, love and affection to my mother Smt. K. Ademma and my father Sri K. Chenna Kesavulu and bellowed Brothers, Sisters, Brothers-in-law and Sister-in-law, without whose blessings, constant advice, moral support and endearing help, this venture would never have been materialized.


(K. ANIL KUMAR)