ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

There have been a number of persons who helped me in bringing out this Doctoral Thesis in this shape. It gives me immense pleasure to convey my heartfelt thanks to all of them.

The first and foremost is my Research Supervisor, Prof. B. NAGARATNAMMA, M.A., PH.D., Department of Psychology, SRI VENKATESWARA UNIVERSITY, Tirupati. I express my heartfelt gratitude to Prof. Nagaratnamma, who had been a great source of inspiration and motivation to me. It is only due to her unfailing and ever encouraging attitude and commitment to my research, that made possible for this work to see the light of the day. I shall ever be grateful to her.

I am grateful to Head and all other members of the Department of Psychology of SRI VENKATESWARA UNIVERSITY, especially to my teachers, Prof. P.V. Ramamurthi and Prof. K. Siva Shankara Reddy, for their support and advice.

Dr. D. Saroja, Reader in Psychology, St. Joseph’s College of Education, Guntur, has been a source of strength through her pioneering work at the counseling center ‘Manassanthi’, Guntur.

The center figure of this study, the sample, the aged from all walks of life across various socio-economic strata, who responded
proactively to my questionnaire and interview are worthy of a special mention. Their participation and enthusiasm during my interaction made me feel immensely happy at addressing a vital problem in our society.

The unflinching support extended, during testing times, by my husband Mr. Challa Satyanarayana Murthy, Head of Economics Department, T.J.P.S. College, Guntur had many times helped me in regaining my sagging confidence and carrying on with the work. I am very happy to be the focus of my husband, who is a staunch advocate and supporter of women’s education.

My Son Mr. Challa Sri Kalyan had been continuously helping and motivating me, whenever my spirits slipped. He has an indispensable share in the presentation of this thesis, through his invaluable statistical analysis at many stages.

My daughter Mrs. Doranala Naga Bharathi and Son-in-law Mr. Doranala Anil Kumar are a great source of advice and wise counsel.

A special mention must be made about my Sister-in-Law Mrs. Parimi Jhansi Lakshmi and her husband Mr. Parimi Krishna Sastry, S.O., Raj Bhavan, Hyderabad, for their readiness to help in odd situations, and its result is the present work.
I am also grateful to my parents Dr. Thumuluri Sashagiri Rao, Sastragna Parishad, Ongole and my mother late Dr. Thumuluri Bharathi, for instilling scientific temper in me; and also to my father-in-law Mr. Challa Lakshminarayana, Retd. D.R.O., Guntur and Mother-in-Law and other members of my family.

I am particularly thankful to Mr. V. Chandra Sekharam, D.T.O., Vaarttha, Guntur, who had patiently typed, corrected and retyped many pages in his own idiosyncratic unassuming patient manner.

My gratitude flows to all those others who made this work possible, but are unable to find a mention here, due to my own pre-occupation.

T.D. VIMALA