ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It is an urge to make a contribution to the body of knowledge, which motivates one to any research project. But, motivation by itself, without proper guidance could hardly help one to proceed with the work. I find words inadequate to express my profound sense of gratitude to my guide Dr. H.C. Shukul, Department of Political Science, Faculty of Arts, M.S university of Baroda, for his persistent guidance, continuous encouragement and cooperation. His constant supervision and support, valuable suggestions, genuine comments and criticisms have provided me with necessary impetus to continue with confidence and complete this challenging academic enterprise.

I express my gratitude to Prof. Dilip Mohite, former, Head, Department of Political Science and Dean faculty of Arts, M.S. University of Baroda, for his help in pursuing this study and providing me a fellowship under the Ford Foundation Programmed in International Studies in the department of political science. I wish to record my personal gratitude to Prof. Thomas Pantham and Dr. Lajawanti Chatani, Department of political science, M.S. University, of Baroda, for their kind support and encouragement.

I am deeply indebted to Prof. G. Haragopal, Head of the Department of Political Science and Co-ordinator, Human Rights Programme, University of Hyderabad. His enlightened ideas, incredible knowledge and experience in the field of human rights are of immense value for me in shaping my initial conception of the study. The significant discussion I had with him at crucial stages of research and invaluable suggestions proved to be a great help. His commitment and contribution to the development of human rights is a source of inspiration to my research study.

It honours me to express my sincere thanks to Prof. Valanan Rodrigues, Head of the Department of Political Science, P.G. Studies and Research in Political Science, Mangalore University Konaje, and Prof. J.S. Sadananda, Head, Department of Political Science, P.G. Studies and Research in Political Science, Kuvempu University, Shimoga, for their kind help and support. I am grateful to Dr. Vasanti Vijayan, Reader, Department of Social Work, Bangalore University, Prof. Sitaram Karkala, National Law school, Bangalore University, Prof. Sangita,
Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore, for being extremely helpful and co-operative to provide me the required guidance in the field of my research.

I am grateful to the authorities of South Asian Forum for Human Rights (SAFHR), Kathmandu, Nepal, Mr. Hemant Prasad and Advocate Sapna Pradha Malla, Forum For Women, Law and Development (FWLP), Kathmandu, Nepal for their kind co-operation and help. This enabled me to have access to the relevant human rights Documents and Materials, which were rather invaluable for this research.

I am thankful to the staff of Smt. Hansa Mehta Library, Baroda, Women’s studies, Research Centre (WSRC), M.S. University, Baroda, United States Information Service (USIS) Mumbai, Indo-American centre for International Studies, (IACIS), Hyderabad and Osmania University Library, Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC) Bangalore, National Law School, Bangalore University.

Warm thanks are also due to friends, Mr. Rammohan Shetty, Mr. Naresh Suvanna and Mr. Prakash Bhat for their great help while undertaking this research. I am also thankful to Mr. Anil G. Lele and Mr. Nitin K. More who had laboured hard to complete the task of typing the thesis in a decent manner. My special thanks to Mr. Stalin Dayanand for his valuable language editing.

The kind of help and co-operation extended by my family needs special acknowledgement. To my parents I owe special thanks for not only caring for my education, but for their unconditional love, to my cousin brother Sr. K.S. Naik and brother-in-law Wing/Commander N. Mohan Rai for their constant encouragement and enormous support, to my brother Kishore for his help in providing useful study materials from Sri Lanka. I am deeply indebted to my brother Mr. Bharath Raj and his wife Preethi who took great care of my family whenever I was away for the collection of relevant materials.

Last but not the least it is difficult for me to express in measured terms, what I owe to my husband, Sri N. Radhakrishna Rai, who is a great source of strength and inspiration for my research work. His keen interest in my work, healthy criticism and suggestions, generous help, extreme co-operation, and constant encouragement not only sustained me throughout but also saw me
through the completion of this work. But for his warmest care and moral support, I could not have ventured to undertake this research study. For at times, the task seemed to be a formidable one. For this, I would continue to remain indebted to him. My affectionate warm thanks are also due to my daughter Madhurya and Son Amogh for being very considerate when I was unable to attend them while engrossed in the present research.

Above all, I thank Almighty for blessing me with the strength to complete my research endeavour.

Vadodara
April 2002

Vandana Rai
Department of Political Science
Faculty of Arts
M.S. University of Baroda
Vadodara