ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am highly grateful to Dr A Karuppiah, M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D. Reader, Department of Sociology, University of Madras, Chennai under whose guidance and supervision I am able to complete my research work and submit the thesis in time. He was always a source of strength and inspiration and a man of all smiles all the time. I am fortunate to have such a friendly guide.

I am highly thankful to Dr T Ramasami, Director, Central Leather Research Institute, Chennai for according permission to register for my research programme as part time research scholar and for his keen interest and encouragement.

I am very grateful and thankful to Dr B Krishnama Naidu, Head, Economics Research Division, Central Leather Research Institute, Chennai for his ready response to my request for my Ph.D. registration. He is a man of abundant faith on his colleagues and ever ready to help his co-workers towards the cause of research work and I am fortunate to have such a dynamic person as the Head of the Division of Economics Research wherein I have been working.

My special thanks to my colleagues Mr D Chandramouli, Dr A Subbarama Naidu, Mr C Pulinda Rao, Dr R Rajendran, Mrs J Lakshmi Siva Jyothi and Mr K Dhananjayan in the Economics
Research Division, Central Leather Research Institute, Chennai for their constant encouragement, timely help and co-operation during the course of research work and preparation of the Ph.D. thesis.

I am sincerely thankful to Prof D Jayalakshmi, Head, Department of Sociology, University of Madras, Chennai for her support during my research programme.

I am thankful to Prof P Radhakrishnan, Madras Institute of Development Studies, Chennai, and Prof P S Balasubramaniam (Retd.), Department of Education, University of Madras, for their constant encouragement and advice to carry out my research work.

My thanks are also due to Dr V Kasirao, documentation officer Central Leather Research Institute, Chennai, Dr B Ramesh Babu, Reader, Department of Library and Information Science, University of Madras, Dr S Gopalakrishnan, Librarian, Madras Institute of Technology, Chennai and Rev Fr Dr Vijaykiran for their support in final correction of the thesis.

Prof R A Shastrimath, Head, Department of Sociology, MES Arts and Commerce College Mudalagi, deserves a word of praise for his timely help in the collection of data from secondary sources.

My thanks are also to staff members of Charmalaya and LIDKAR of Athani for providing the basic data and help during my field work.

I am indebted Mr G Ramaswamy, Central Leather Research Institute for his valuable and timely help in the preparation of this thesis and
Mr G Sampath, for his valuable inputs in the preparation of the thesis and meticulous secretarial assistance.

Above all, I sincerely thank God Almighty for all help received to finish my thesis. I also thank my family members particularly parents and my wife Vydehi daughters Sharanya and Sowmya for their support encouragement, understanding and cooperation.

Kollannavar Giriyappa Hanamappa