ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I owe a deep debt of gratitude to my guide and mentor Dr. N. RANGASWAMY, currently Professor and Director, Student Welfare, Department of Economics, Bangalore University, Bangalore, for his warm concern and constant encouragement, for his untiring suggestions and creative comments at every stage of this study, my gratitude to him is in deep beyond measure. He has devoted his precious time and effort to read and correct the preliminary drafts of the thesis far beyond the call of formal duty. And in the process, he has given me the benefit of his exceptional insights into many complex issues discussed in this thesis.

I thank Dr. K.K. SEETHAMMA, Professor of Economics, Bangalore University, Bangalore, for her creative suggestions on several aspects of the study. I also thank Dr. VENKATARAMAN Professor of Statistics, Bangalore University, Bangalore, for his whole hearted support in drawing and interpreting the statistical data. I thank Dr. R. G Desai, Professor and Chairman, Department of Economics, D.P. Anjanyaswamy, Reader, Dr. T. Rajendra Prasad, Reader, Department of Economics and all my teachers.

I must place on record my sincere appreciation and thankfulness to the staff of the Libraries of Bangalore University, Jnanabharathi, Bangalore, Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC) Bangalore, Indian Statistical Institute, Bangalore for providing library facilities for my study.

My thanks are due to all my friends Mohan Kumar Naik, N. Nanjundaswamy, Hampi Lingaiah, K. Jagannath, Devananad H.N., H.P. Ramesh, C.T. Bhaskar, K. Narayanaswamy, Baliram, Raju, Venkataraju, Nagaraju, Shivu, Appy for giving valuable suggestions and support in the course of the study.
I am grateful to my Parents, Brother, and Sisters as well as my Meternal Uncle for their encouragement and moral support all through my Ph.D. Work.

It must be mentioned that although suggestions and the help I have received from the individuals named herein have made the present study immensely better than it would otherwise have been, I am alone responsible for the flaws that may still remain in it.

(SRINIVASAPPA)