ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I consign my respectful thanks to my supervisor, Dr. N. Ningaiah, Professor, Department of Studies in Anthropology, University of Mysore, Mysore, who welcomed my candidature whole heartedly with great zeal. He helped me to attain the hidden stakes of knowledge to pursue my research work successfully. I express my deep sense of gratitude for all the academic nourishment right from the beginning to this stage with incessant cooperation in all aspect of research activities. His valuable guidance and encouragements gave me an opportunity to take up new challenges and enabled me to successfully complete this doctoral research. I owe all my achievements to him.

I am thankful to Professor Annapurna, Chairperson, Department of Studies in Anthropology, University of Mysore, Manasagangotri, Mysore, for providing necessary facilities and corporation during the course of research work.

I am in dearth of words to express my deep sense of hearty gratitude to all my teachers of Anthropology Department, Dr. M.R. Gangadhar, and Prof. K Rajasekhara Reddy, for their kind cooperation, timely help and support throughout my research tenure.

I would also to express my sincere, thanks to Dr. S. Mahadeva for timely help, valuable suggestions and encouragement during my research study.

A penultimate thanks goes to my wonderful family, for all of their supports during my doctoral research; I owe this thesis to my wonderful father and my lovely mother, my kind wife and my dear mother in-low and beloved sisters who were driving force in my research. I am privileged to have them for being the light of my life and for their love, care, encouragement and support for sharing my joy and sorrow. This work would not have seen the light of the day without the constant support and encouragement of them.

Hossein Madani