ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and foremost, it is with great pleasure, I express my deep sense of gratitude and indebtedness to my Research Supervisor Prof. P. Neerajakshulu Naidu, Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology and Principal, College of International Studies, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati for suggesting this topic and giving me his valuable guidance besides lending me some negatives of the photographs. He has been a source of inspiration and confidence and I could always count upon his affection, unfailing help and constructive criticism, without which it would not have been possible for me to complete this work. I express once again my heartfelt thanks to him.

My sincere thanks to Prof. D. Kiran Kranth Chowdary, Vice-Principal, College of International Studies, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati, Dr. V. Sakuntala, Head, Prof. K. Reddappa, Chairman, Bos, and Associate Professors Dr. N. Krishna Reddy, Dr. P. Baskar Reddy, Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology, Prof. D. Ananda Naidu, Department of History, for their kind encouragement in the completion of this work.

I express my thanks to Dr. Bhuman Suguna, Registrar, Sri Padmavati Mahila University, Tirupati, for her encouragement during the period of my study.

I am really indebted to Dr. (smt) Kedhareswari, Director, Department of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Andhra Pradesh, for having kindly permitted me to take photographs inside temples and museums in Andhra Pradesh. I also express thanks to Dr. G. Kamalakar, Director, Birla Archaeological and Cultural Research Institute (Birla Museum) for his help in the collection of photographs from his institute.

I express my gratitude to the INDIAN COUNCIL OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH, NEW DELHI, for sanctioning me ICHR JUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP (Non Net) to complete my Research work.
I am thankful to my friends, Dr. D. Giri Naidu, Dr. N. Narendra Naidu, Dr. T. Balaji Naidu, B. Morarji, N. Amareswar Reddy, V. Vara Prasad, M. Hari Kumar and E. Anji Naidu for their support and encouragement given to me during the period of this study.

I owe my special debt to my father Karanam Chinna Thimmappa, mother Gangamma, and Parental uncles K.V. Ramana (Ex. M.P.P), Narayana (Rtd Teacher), Ravindra, and my brother Prabhakar, his wife Sunita, co-brothers Chandra Sekhar and Somanath whose constant encouragement, love and affection have been a source of inspiration without which it would have remained as an unfulfilled dream.

Furthermore, my thanks are also due to Sri K. Murali Krishna, Junior Assistant of the department for his help during the investigation.

Finally, I am thankful to Mr. N. Gandhi Babu, Incharge, Audio-Visual Section of the department of Engineering, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati, for his help in the photo work of my thesis.

Tirupati
Date: 21-06-2008

(KARANAM SUDHAKAR)