ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This research work was carried out under the supervision of Dr. B.R. Bhat, Professor and Head of the Department of Statistics, Karnataka University, whose inspiring guidance, patience, kindness and above all, sincere interest made its completion possible. It gives me immense pleasure to gratefully acknowledge my indebtedness.

Thanks are due to Karnataka University and in particular, the Department of Statistics for giving me an opportunity to do research in the Department and for providing me with necessary facilities. Thanks are also due to the staff members of the Department for their constant encouragement and helpful discussions during all stages of this work.

It gives me satisfaction to gratefully acknowledge the financial support for this research work extended to me by Tribhuvan University, Nepal, through the award of a Teacher Fellowship under its Faculty Development Scheme.
I am greatly benefited by stimulating discussions with my research colleagues. My colleagues Dr. H.J. Vaman, Dr. S.T. Hiromath, Sri S.S. Kadi, Sri B.C. Kamat, Sri S.K. Wagley, Sri V.R. Sharma and others have helped me in many ways. I offer my sincere thanks to them. Also my sincere appreciation and thanks are due to Smt. P.S. Desai for typing the thesis with great care and diligence.

Lastly, I am greatly indebted to my wife Sharada, son Vinaya, my brothers and sisters for their love and affection, and for providing me with the moral strength to stay away from home to complete this work.

H. B. Shrestha