ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

With a deep sense of gratitude and a feeling of everlasting indebtedness, I acknowledge the keen interest shown in my work and constant encouragement given to me by my esteemed guide Dr. G.S. Bidarkoppa, Professor and Chairman, Department of Social Work, Karnatak University, Dharwad. But for his kind acceptance to guide me the present study would not have taken off and without his able guidance and constant help, this study would not have taken its present shape. I am ever grateful to him for this and for providing me with a rare opportunity to work under his inspiring guidance.

It is with great pleasure and admiration, that I earnestly thank Prof. N. Rudraiah, Vice Chancellor, Gulbarga University, Gulbarga, who inspired me and provided me with a role model in himself to emulate. His dedication and commitment to applied research in his own field, even as a Vice Chancellor, his sincere and hard work and uncompromising discipline inspired me in no small measure to rededicate myself to scientific research and academics. So, I thank earnestly ever so much for being a never ending source of inspiration to me and also for his extremely kind patronage.

I am ever grateful to my esteemed teacher and mentor Dr. K. Chandrasekharraiah, D. Phil. [Frankfurt], Retired Senior Professor of Sociology, Karnatak University, Dharwad for equipping me with research techniques and motivating me to continue for ever with scientific social research.

I sincerely thank the Gulbarga University, Gulbarga for permitting me to work for my Doctoral Degree and I am equally grateful to the Karnatak University, Dharwad for providing me with the facilities to undertake this research work.

I gratefully acknowledge the encouragement and unreserved support I received from my senior colleagues in the department, Prof. L.S. Ainapur, Dr. J.L. Hamilpurker and Dr. M.S. Dhadave. I am deeply indebted to Mr. Raghavendra Gudagunti and Mr. Jaganath Shinde for their invaluable help in the tabulation and analysis of data.
It is indeed a great pleasure and my good fortune that I have a brother in Squadron Leader G.L. Hiremath and Sister-in-law in Umakka who have been a source of inspiration to me ever since my early age. I am ever grateful to them for their concern, care and love for me that has enabled me to succeed in one task after the other.

I owe a lot to my parents and parents-in-law, who took pride in all my achievements and blessed me with strength and endurance that stood me in good stead whenever I undertook a task like this. More than anything else, their love and affection is so gratifying that it always motivates me to do the things to deserve it. I am ever grateful to them for the sincerity and warmth in their blessings.

It is with great pleasure and a sense of gratitude that I remember here the encouragement, love, and help I received from Sharadakka, Somanath Vinu, Chandan, and my grandparents. In one way or the other, I am indebted to each one of them in completing this work.

I there is anyone, whom I cannot thank enough, it is my wife Arathi, who stood with me in all the moments of pleasure and pain. She not only stood as a bystander, but helped me day in and day out in the preparation of manuscripts, rewriting the rough drafts, scanning through the literature and preparing reference cards, all this on top of and unmingling her tiring job and routine chores! But for her loving sacrifice and unreserved dedication and commitment to my well-being, this work would not have been possible - I just can't thank her enough.

Lastly I thank sincerely Mr. Ashokkumar Ghanate, Gulbarga for his neat and timely typing of the manuscript.

Dr. S.L. Hiremath