ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It gives me great pleasure to express my profound sense of gratitude and respect to my esteemed teacher Dr. S.H. KUNCHUR, Reader, P.G. Department of Studies in Statistics, Karnatak University, Dharwad. I am very much grateful to him for his kind encouragement, inspiring guidance and keen interest in research throughout the course of this work. It was indeed a great privilege to be his student.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge my special debt of gratitude to Dr. M.S. CHIKKAGOODAR, Professor and Chairman, P.G. Department of Studies in Statistics, Karnatak University, Dharwad, for his suggestions, comments and timely advice which are never to be forgotten. I am grateful to him for providing me the necessary facilities in the department for carrying out my studies.

I wish to express my deep sense of gratitude to Dr. B.R. BHAT for giving me an opportunity to undertake this research work.

I am indebted to all the teachers and office staff members of Department of Statistics, Karnatak University, Dharwad, for their encouragement and kind help from time to time.
My sincere thanks are due to M/s Desai Graphics, Dharwad, for care and skill in typing the manuscript.

I owe a great debt to my family and friends for their affectionate support throughout the course of this research work, without which this research would never have been possible.

SUREKHA B. MUNOLI