PREFACE

It is well known that many articles and a few monographs have been already published on this subject. Many academicians evinced great interest on the study of Killekyathas. On the advice of scholars in social sciences, particularly from Anthropology and Criminology, I have taken up the study. It is an attempt at understanding the culture of the Maratha community of Killekyathas of Karnataka who, on account of their isolation as a small community, are regarded by others as a peculiar people. Many of the peculiarities of the Killekyatha culture become significant only if they are understood in the light of culture contact and diffusion.

The results of this study are based on an analytical study of the community of Killekyathas as reflected in the structure, cultural configuration and the personality system of the Killekyathas of five component villages of Karnataka State, namely, Amarnathpur, Surdi, Agatoor, Bommagaripal and Kushalpur (pseudonyms). The villages have been selected on the principle of the level of integration achieved by the Killekyathas as a result of historical, environmental and psychological forces operating in the process of social change. After making a background literature, a comprehensive survey of the culture complex of the community was carried out to gain adequate insight into the Killekyatha life. The study was commenced in 1989 and completed in 1993.
The text of the thesis is arranged as such, in the first chapter an attempt is made to cover the historical perspective of the Killekyathas, research problem and review of literature. The next chapter gives the research design and methodology. The third chapter deals with the social organization. The fourth chapter gives the description of the material culture of Killekyathas, which is followed by a chapter that gives a full account of religious life of the community. In the sixth chapter the economic organization is analysed. In conclusion, a summary of the significant findings and suggestions of the study have been discussed.

The idea took the present shape when Professors S.C. Kenchangoudar and A.C. Inamdar, Department of Criminology, Karnataka University, Dharwar encouraged and advised me to write a Ph.D. thesis on the Killekyathas. Professor B.C. Kubasad of the same Department and Advocate Mr. M.P. Revadi, Guleedagudda of Bijapur district were always helpful to me whenever I approached them by giving their comments on my thesis.

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My heartfelt thanks are due to Mrs. Asha Jadhav and her colleagues of Bangalore for typing the first draft and to Mr. A.V. Yamanur of Dharwar and Mr. Suresh of Bangalore for rectifying and typing the final copy. I dedicate this thesis to my parents and to the people of the Killekyatha Community.

Last but not least, I must express my deep sense of gratitude to my research supervisor Dr. N.K. Kadetotad, Department of Anthropology, Karnataka University, Dharwar, whose encouragement and sympathetic understanding of my work, made this study possible.

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