ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to acknowledge my debt of gratitude to a number of persons whose assistance, guidance and support has made me to reach this present level of societal understanding.

Among numerous persons responsible for this, I am deeply indebted to:

Professor Prabha Mahale, my research Guide, who has helped me to channelise and profoundly develop my skills and theoretical understanding to the best of my capabilities.

My personal friend Ms. Jaya Patil who constantly provided me reference materials;

My loving husband, Dr. Gangadhar and my daughter Manali who by way of their utmost consideration, really provided me with necessary congenial and emotional environment to complete this work;

Thanks are also due to Dr. K G Gurumurthy, Professor, Department of Anthropology, Karnataka University, Dharwad and Dr. B S Maheswarappa, Reader, Department of Library and Information Science, Karnataka University, Dharwad for their keen interest in the work.

Messrs. Akhil Graphics, Dharwad for typing and preparing my thesis; My friends from Karnataka University and respondents of Dharwad without whose co-operation and support this study was an impossibility; My parents shri M.S. Vernekar and smt. Shashikala Vernekar for their blessings; and family friends, relatives, for their encouragement and good wishes.

Dharwad

(Smt. Nayana Gangadhar)