ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First of all, I thank the ALMIGHTY, for giving me the patience and courage for conducting this study.

It gives me immense pleasure to express my deep sense of gratitude and thanks to Dr. Pramod B. Gai, Professor of Anthropology, and Coordinator, Department of Applied Genetics, Karnataka University, Dharwad, under whose scholarly, inspiring, meticulous guidance and supervision, the present work has been successfully carried out. It has been an honour and privilege for me to work under him.

I must express my deep sense of gratitude and thanks to Dr. Rameeth C.M, Professor and Head, Department of Anatomy, J.J.M. Medical College, Davanagere, (Karnataka), Dr. Sathiyamurthy, Professor and Head, Department of Anatomy, S.S. Institute of Medical Sciences, Davanagere (Karnataka), Dr. V.N. Kulkarni, Head, Department of Anatomy, S.D.M. Institute of Dental Sciences, Dharwad, Dr. P.R. Kulkarni, Professor and Head, Department of Anatomy, Dr. V.M. Medical College, Solapur, (Maharashtra) Dr. B.P. Zhambre, Professor and Head Department of Anatomy, Government Medical College, Aurangabad, (Maharashtra), Late Dr. Vijayachandira, and Dr. Krishna Reddy, Professor and Head, Department of Anatomy, S.V.S Institute of Medical Sciences, Medaboothnagar (Andhra Pradesh) for allowing me to study the samples from their students and providing samples available in their Departmental museums, without their help and cooperation this thesis would have not been possible.
I am grateful to Dr. S.V. Hittalamani, Professor and Chairman, Department of Anthropology, Karnataka University, Dharwad for his valuable suggestions and cooperation.

My sincere thanks are also due to Dr. C.G. Hussen Khan, Dr. K.C. Tarachand Dr. P.P. Pavate, Dr. Murahari Naik, Sri. R.M. Giriji, Dr. T.T. Basavangouda and staff members, Department of Anthropology, Karnataka University, Dharwad for their encouragement and support.

Sincere thanks are due to Dr. B. Vijayachandra Professor and Head, Department of Anatomy, Karnataka Institute of Medical Sciences, Hubli for his kind encouragement.

My sincere thanks are due to all my colleagues, Dr. M.N.Koti, Dr. J.Y.Kadam, Dr. Rajeshwari Eligar, Dr. R. Dondaraddy, Dr. Fazal Gehlot in the Department of Anatomy, Karnataka Institute of Medical Sciences, Hubli, for their help and encouragement.

My special thanks to Dr. Khaja Nasiruddin, Director, Vijaynagar Institute of Medical Sciences, Bellary, Dr.V. Balasubramanyam, Professor and Head, Department of Anatomy, St. John's Medical College, Bangalore and Dr. Ganga Gaurishankar., Associate Professor, Department of Anatomy, J.J.M. Medical College, Davanagere, for their kind encouragement.

I offer my heartfelt thanks to my mother Smt. Syeda Mehrunissa and my father Sri. Kazi Syed Ahamed Kadri, for their affection and blessings and also thanks to my wife Syeda Tahera Begum, and brother-in-law Meer Maqsud Ali for their constant encouragement and moral support.
Lastly, I am thankful to Dr. V.N. Biradar, former Director, Karnataka Institute of Medical Sciences, Hubli, for permitting to do Ph.D as external candidate.

Last but not least, my special thanks to Dr. S.A. Kadi, Department of Statistics, Karnataka University, Dharwad, Prof. S.B. Javali, Department of Statistics, S.D.M. Dental Sciences, Dharwad for their help in making Statistical analysis of the data. I also thanks to Sharanu, for designing and typing of this thesis.

Date : 28th April 2007

Place: Hubli

Kazi S.A.K.