Acknowledgement

Many people have traversed with me in this arduous, yet highly satisfying journey. Some have been the leading lights, while some others have lent their helping hands at different junctures to make the whole process smooth and memorable. At times it feels little awkward and out of place to formally acknowledge their help and favour. However, courtesy and information for the posterity makes it an 'unavoidable necessity'. Recalling and recording all the names is not possible, omission of certain names makes their contribution no less important.

The stroke of destiny and certain chance events in life, take us to the destinations not thought of. One such incident happened, when the thought of Ph.D registration came up. It was suggested by a friend that Dr. S.T. Bagalkoti, Faculty, Department of Economics, Karnataka University, Dharwad would be best bet and it immediately materialised. The last four years have been very fruitful, warm and pleasant ones. My limited experience in life suggests me that it is definitely a matter of great luck to have worked under the able guidance of a person like Dr. Bagalkoti, very warm, friendly and highly co-operative personality. He has been guiding me all through without any hiccups and distance was never a factor. He has also been very magnanimous enough to bear with my occasional misadventures and misplaced aggressions! I owe a lot to him.

The destiny also bring us in contact with some very 'special persons' who in due course of time become integral to our life- guiding us through the ups-downs and nitty-gritties of life, be it academic or non-academic matters. I met this personality extraordinary in the year 1992 (as a Post-graduate student at Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune) and our association continues. The person in contention is none other than Dr. R.S. Deshpande, currently Professor and Head ADRT Unit, Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore. Since those early days he has been my Godfather, Philosopher and a great source of inspiration. His contribution to the present venture has been tremendous, to say the least. The help of Mrs. Suhas Deshpande is worth remembering in this context.

I met 'her' somewhere in the year 2000 (the same year I registered for my Ph.D.) through a formal channel and soon we became life partners. We have been co-passengers since 2001. She has been with me in all ups and downs, also in connection with the Ph.D work, Shobha, my wife, my
life partner has been a tough taskmaster (with respect to Ph.D work, of course!), assuming at
times, the mantle of a 'de-facto guide', persistently urging me to show the Ph.D work aight of the
day at the earliest. My 'Sakhat Son,' Summu (Sumedh) also requires a special mention in the same
vein. His lovely longings promoted early completion of the work so that I could be an active part
of his schedule in a big way. My father Sri M. B. Tirlapur and mother Smt. Sarojini have also been
great helping hands in several ways. My father always counseled me to be patient and make this
venture a stepping stone for further endeavors. My in laws Sri V. R. Parande and Smt. Shantadavi,
and my sister Smt. V.M. Tirlapur, brother Dr. M. M. Tirlapur added to level of my optimism.

I would be failing in my moral duty if I do not acknowledge the academic inputs provided all
through this span of work. The experts and colleagues from Dharwad, Bangalore, Delhi, Hyderabad
etc have guided me in different ways. My discussions with Prof. Nilakanth Rath, (Indian School of
Political Economy, Pune), Prof. Krishnamurthy (Ex. Faculty, Delhi School of Economics), Prof.
B. Kamaiah (University of Hyderabad) in the early stages provided several important insights. The
interactions with Prof. Pradip Choudhary (Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, JNU,
New Delhi), Prof. Tapas K. Sen (National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi)
enriched the quality of the work. Dr. H. K. Amarnath, ISEC, Bangalore was of great help at the
stage of data collection which saved me considerable amount of time.

Mr. R. R. Biradar, Faculty of the department of Economics, Karnataka University, Dharwad
has been a good friend of mine since our PG days. His academic and logistic support all through the
venture has been great. My sincere thanks to Dr. P. S. Mundisamani, Prof. and Head Department
of Economic, Karnataka University, Dharwad for his encouraging words. Due gratitudes are
due to Dr. R. V. Dadibhavi, Dr. S. R. Narappanavar, Dr. Pushpa M. Savadatti (all on the faculty of
the same Department) for their useful comments during the pre-submission seminar. Dr. Vaikunte,
Dr. P.M. Honakeri, Dr. Gadwale, from the Dept have also been helpful at different stages of the
work.

Dr. R. Veerachamy (former Chairman, Department of Economics, Bangalore University,
Bangalore), my senior colleague has been very close and good to me, ever since I joined as a faculty,
Department of Economics, Bangalore University, Bangalore. He along with Dr. R. G. Desai, the
incumbent chairman and Dr. A. S. Rayamane, Department of Geography, has been pestering me
for an early completion of the work. My colleagues in the Department of Economics, Bangalore
University, Bangalore. Dr. N.Rangaswamy, Dr.C.G. Krishnaswamy, Dr. M.Ramanjelu, Dr. K
K. Seethamma, Dr. D.P. Anjaneyaswamy, Dr.R. Shashikumar, Dr. T. Rajendra Prasad, Dr.
S.R.Keshava and Dr. S. Jayalaxmi Priya have also been helpful in different ways. My close pal and
sociology faculty, Dr. R. Rajesh has been very liberal in providing any assistance and was my
troubleshooter for my computer and IT related problems.

My Friends and well-wishers Dr. M. N. Katti, Dr. B. S. Benni, Mr. Kuber S Rayamane
provided enough moral support and courage at different steps. My co-brother Subhas Patil was of
great help in the final stages. I was lucky to have Mr. Ramachandran, Bangalore for highly efficient
typing and editing works who patiently catered to all my requirements. Mr. R. K. Hedge, Dharwad
carried forward and gave final shape to the work patiently and diligently.

Heartful gratitude to all those who have directly and indirectly helped me at several stages of
the work. However, only I am responsible for any errors in the study.

Date: 19-3-2005

Place: Dharwad