ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to acknowledge sincerely all the help that came my way, whether directly or indirectly.

I express my sincere gratitude to my guide Dr. P.B.Gai, Professor and Chairman, Dept. of Anthropology, Karnatak University, Dharwad for his guidance. He accompanied me to the field work in the interior regions of forests during data collection. At every stage his help has been memorable.

Perhaps I would not have undertaken this doctoral research, if Dr. S.J. Nagalotimath (Ex. Director- KIMS, Hubli), my teacher and mentor had not urged me to do this exploration. My sincere thanks are due to him for guiding and supporting my research work.

I sincerely thank Dr. H.B. Rajashekhar (Principal, J.N.M.C. Belgaum) who willingly permitted me to perceive the research and encouraging me all through my work.

Mr. Shivappa Poojary, the chief Co-ordinator of Siddi Development Project at Yellapur deserves special thanks for his constant help and cooperation. I am very much grateful to him and his wife Mrs Mohini for their assistance.

The backbone seemed to be the Siddi field workers. I thank all of them immensely for motivating the Siddis to get examined. They were Mr. Krishna, Mr. Mohammed, Mr. Diego, Mrs Parvati, Mr. Imam and Miss Menezes.

I thank all the Siddis and Non-Siddis for their consent, without whose voluntary support to get themselves examined, this work would not have been possible.
Rev. Fr. S. Chemanthara S.J, my teacher introduced me to Rev. Fr. Claude D'souza S.J. (Director CNF & CE, Bangalore) and Dr. Leonilla Ageira (Director of INODEP-ASIA, Bangalore), for approaching the Siddi community in Uttara Kannada District. I thank all of them for extending their helping hand in studying the health of Siddis.

My thanks are due to Dr. Ranjit Kangle and Dr. Raghunath who accompanied and assisted me, in the forests of Uttara Kannada, to examine the Siddis.

I also thank sincerely Dr. Aravind Desai, Dr. S.S.Sangolli, Dr. Kishore Bhat, Dr. R. Duggani, Dr. Hanumanthappa, Dr. M.S. Khanapet, Dr. Mallikarjun, Mr. S.V.Virge, Mr. B.S. Halemani, Mr.G.C.Bagi, Mr. Mahantesh from J.N.Medical college Belgaum; Prof N.P.Patil and Dr. C. Madhavi from S.D.M. Dental college, Dharwad for their assistance in the data collection of the Siddis. Thanks are also due, to Mr. M.D. Mallapur from J.N.M.C for his help in statistical analysis.

I thank the local doctor (G.P) at Yellapur Dr. G.P Bhat for his guidance in assessing the health of Siddis as well as of the Non-Siddis.

Dr. P.P. Shirodkar (Director) and Mr. Aravind Yalgi (Librarian) of Directorate of Archieves, Archeology and Museum and Rev. Fr. T.R. DeSouza S.J. (Director of Xavier Centre of Historical Research) at Goa, provided me with all the facilities of their institute in literature survery. The librarians of Karnataka University Dharwad and J.N.M.C Belgaum were kind enough in giving me free access to the literature. I am very thankful to all of them for their support and encouraging attitude.

My thanks are also due, to all the staff members from Dept of Anthropology, for their kind co-operation Prof. K.G.Gurumurthy, Prof. C.G.Hussain Khan, Dr.S.V.Hittalmani, Dr.K.C. Tarachand, Shri. R.M.Giriji, Dr.P.P.Pavate and Dr.D.M.Naik. I also thank Dr.R.S.Hiremath from Dept. of Kannada and Dr.R.R.Hegde from Dept of Botany, KUD, for their help.
Without the financial assistance, this research work would have been very difficult. I thank sincerely Late. Dr. V.S. Metgud, Dr. S.J. Nagalotimath, Kasbekar-Metgud Trust, Rotary Club of Belgaum and Rotary club of Hubli-Mid town, who contributed finances generously.

Free medicines for distribution among the Siddis were provided by Dr. Ajit Kulkarni, Dr. Anil Kulkarni, Dr. Suhas Manjarekar & Dr. D.I. Nooh. I am grateful to all these doctor friends.

My heartful thanks are due, to Prof. S.C. Bagi (Retd Head of English Dept and I/C Principal, Lingaraj College, Belgaum) for correcting the manuscript meticulously within a short span of time.

I thank Dr. Asawari Sant, Dr. Alka Kale and Dr. Sunita Patil for their timely help. Thanks are due, to Mr. G.B. Patil and Mr. Ishwar, the photographers; Mr. V.V. Guggari and Mr. Vikrant Kalkundrikar, the artists for the photographic and art work.

I am very much thankful to Mr. Jagadeesh B. Nooli of Innovative Systems for preparing the manuscript very carefully, neatly and meticulously.

Thanks are also due, to all my friends, especially Mr. Suresh Patravali and his family for their encouragement and help.

Last but not the least I thank my Late father, my mother and my wife for bearing with my negligence to the domestic responsibility during my study period. I thank my wife for accompanying me (sometimes) in my field work and make the Siddis feel at home. My special thanks are due to my two daughters who stood by me like solid rock of Gibralter, especially my elder daughter for doing a lot of writing work.

Dr. Prakash V. Patil M.D.