ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to acknowledge the help extended to me by a number of people in carrying out and completing the present study.

I express my sincere thanks to my research guide Dr. C. A. Somasekharappa for his keen interest, able guidance and supervision. At every stage of my study his help was quite valuable.

I thank Prof. H. V. Nagesh for suggesting the topic of the study when I was searching for a suitable topic in the area of Medical Sociology.

I am greatly indebted to Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi for awarding me the fellowship to conduct research in the area of Medical Sociology which was a great financial help in carrying out my work. I am also thankful to National Social Science Documentation Centre (NASSDOC) for helping me in literature search by sending bibliographies.

The Librarians and staff of Karnataka University Library, Rani Kittur Chennamma Post Graduate Centre Library, J.N. Medical College Library and the Belgaum City Central Library were of great help in providing the reading materials and facilities for my study. My special thanks to Dr. M. K. Bhandi, Librarian Mangalore University for sending references which were not accessible to me.

Many people helped me in my field work. Dr. Karakannavar Jt. Director of Health and Family Welfare, Dr. S. H. Patil, District Health Officer, Belgaum and many Medical Officers helped me to carry out Pilot studies and field work proper. Mr. U. D. Kari, Mr. S. M. Pattar, from District Health Office provided the information I needed. The paramedical staff also co-operated with me. I thank all the staff members of FPAI Belgaum branch for their ready co-operation in my work. My special thanks are due to Mr. J. K. Hiremath, Dr. (Mrs.) V.C. Bawdekar,
Dr. (Mrs.) P. R. Walvekar, Mr. L. S. Bilagi, Mr. S. M. Kapse of FPAI, Belgaum branch.

The willing co-operation and keen interest shown by all my respondents in all the camps is unforgettable without which the present study would not have been possible. I thank Sheetal for accompanying me on my field work and helping me with the Marathi speaking respondents.

I thank all the camp attending doctors who responded to the questionnaire.

I thank Prof. S. C. Bagi for his scholarly help in correcting the manuscript.

Finally I wish to acknowledge the support extended by all my family members who showed keen interest throughout my study. I thank my brother Chandramouli for his timely help in procuring general statistical data. My parents were a great moral support and I specially thank my mother for coming over and staying with us during the last couple of months of hectic activity and helping me in supervising my household.

I thank Namita and Jagadeesh Nooli of Innovative Systems and Ravi Gutti of Skyline for bringing out the thesis within a short time.

Last and not the least I thank my husband Dr. Ashok Godhi and children Kishori and Satyajit for bearing with me during my busy schedule. I thank my husband not only for his steady support and encouragement but also for providing clinical insights into the profession of Medicine.

Ranjana Kanavi