ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and foremost, I profoundly acknowledge with sincere thanks and deep sense of gratitude to my research guide Dr. Dasharath R. Albal, Professor of Sociology, Director, School of Social Sciences, and President, Post Graduation Teachers Association of Rani Channamma University, Belagavi, for his valuable guidance, suggestions, motivation, immense knowledge, patience, continuous support and encouragement throughout the preparation of my study in Ph.D. Programme. His guidance helped me in all the time of research and writing of this thesis. I could not have imagined having a better advisor and mentor for my Ph.D. study. It has been an esteem honour, admiration and pride to be his student first in Masters Study and then Ph.D. student. Besides my advisor I would also like to thank Dr. (Smt.) Jayashree, Prof. and Chairperson, Dept. of Studies in Sociology, KUD, for her true and great support, I'm eternally grateful to her.

Besides my advisor I would like to thank, Prof. G. K. Boodeppa, Chairman, Dept. of Studies in Sociology, RCUB, Dr. K. B. Chandrika, Asso. Prof. of Sociology, RCUB, Dr. C. A. Somashekarappa, Prof. of Sociology, KUD, Dr. (Smt.) Shakuntala S. Shettar, Prof. of Sociology, KUD, Dr. Shaukath Azim, Prof. of Sociology, KUD, Dr. Dhruva Jyothi, Asst. Prof. of Sociology, KUD; Prof. S. L. Hiremath, Dept. of Sociology, Gulbarga University, Gulbarga for their encouragement and insightful discussions, comments and suggestions.

I will be forever thankful to Prof. H. B. Walikar, Honourable Vice Chancellor, Karnataka University, Dharwad. Prof. B. R. Ananthan, Honourable Vice Chancellor, Rani Channamma University, Belagavi. Prof. Shantinath Dibbad, Registrar, RCUB, Prof. Vishnukanth Chatpalli, Special Officer, RCUB and Late. Shri. M.P. Prakash, Ex- Dy. Chief Minister, Karnataka State, for their helpful career advice and suggestions in general.

A warm and healthy gratitude to all the Doctors for keeping me healthy throughout my research course: Dr. Samir Naik, Prof. of KLE’s Kankanwadi Ayurveda Hospital, Belgaum; Dr. Dinesh Nashipudi, Janata Clinic, Anjaneya Nagar, Belgaum; Dr. Prakash Bablachi, Physician, KLES’s Polyclinic Hospital, Belgaum; Dr. Veena Nandennavar and Dr. Poonam Patil, their care and affectionate
treatment in all my pains, made it to approach my research with positive state of mind.

A Very Special thanks to Dr. Odillia Coutinouh, Rtd. Professor of Geography, R.P.D. College, Belgaum; Dr. Sarjoo Katkar, Principal Correspondent, The New Indian Express, Belgaum, Shri. Y. R. Patil, Thasildar & President for Belgaum District Kannada Sahitya Parishattu, Shri. Mahesh Hiremath, General Manager Administration, KUIDFT, Bangalore, Shri. B. B. Hosamani, Rtd. Director, Dept. of Karnataka State Library, Bangalore and Shri. Prakash Girimallanavar, Central Research Library of Lingayat Studies, Shivabasava Nagar, Belgaum, Shri. Raju Chikkangoudar, Ex- Syndicate Member, RCUB, Shri. S. C. Hiremath, Rtd. APO, ZP, Belgaum, Shri. Mallikarjun D. Angadi for giving me an immense confidence and imparting me rich knowledge on various concepts related to my research topic.

I would also take this opportunity to thank my senior colleague friends, Shri. B. S. Hasaraddi, Principal, GFG College, K K Koppar, Ms. Rizawana B. Gadkari, Asst Prof. of Pol. Sci. of GFG College, KK Koppar, T/D: Belgaum, Dr. Zia A. Pathan, Vice-Principal, Al-Ameen P.U. College, Belgaum; Dr. Krishnamurti, Asso. Prof. of Lib. & Info. Sci., KUD; Prof. H. Y. Kamble, Dept. of Commerce, RCUB, Prof. T. Venkatesh, Dept. of Mathematics, RCUB, Dr. Akash S. B., Chairman, Dept. of Commerce, RCUB, Dr. Manjunath G. Hegde, Prof. & Chairman, Dept. of English, RCUB, Dr. (Smt.) Nagratna V. Parande, Asst. Prof. of English, RCUB; Dr. Kallolikar, Prof. & Chairman, Dept. of History, KUD, Mr. Chidanand U. Dhawaleshwar, Asst. Prof. of Social Work, RCUB, Dr. Gangadharayya, Asso. Prof. of Kannada, RCUB, Dr. Gurubasaravajja, Asso. Prof. of Mathematics, RCUB; Ms. Roopa Kawalekar, Lect. In Commerce, Jyoti PU College, Belgaum, Ms. Deepa Kawalekar, Lect. In Commerce, Belgaum, Mr. Manjunath, Asst. Prof. of Geography, RCUB; Mr. Arun Kamble, Asst. Prof. of Sociology, GFGC, Raibag, Mr. Prashant Bhat, Teaching Asst. of Comp. Sci. RCUB; Mr. Sachindra G.R., Asst. Prof. of Commerce, RCUB; Dr. Basavaraj Bagade, Asst. Prof. of Geography, RCUB, Ms. Pooja P. Halyal, Asst. Prof. of English, RCUB and Ms. Devta Gasti, Asst. Prof. of Social Work, RCUB, for their valuable time in discussion, suggestions and constant support when needed.
My special thanks to my dear friends: Mr. Arun D. Bhuti, Sales Executive, Mr. Rajashekar S. Kapalganti, Lect. in Kannada, Mr. Vinayak Neeralakatti, Lect. in History, Mr. Chetan B. Shingai, Faculty (ad hoc), National Law School of India University, Bangalore; Mr. Uday Ammangi, Senior Product Engineer, Vubites Ind. Pvt. Ltd. Mumbai, Mr. Akash Bhairannavar, Inspector of Customs, Central Excise and Service Tax, Bgm. Div. Belgaum; Mr. Kiran Desai, Principal, S.M. D.Ed. College, Murgod; Mr. Venkatesh Naik, Ms.Chandu Billur, Asst. Prof. of Clinical Psychology, KLE’s J.N. Medical College, Belgaum; Mr. Vivek Shettanavar, Mr. Maillar Horakeri, Asst. Teacher, Govt. Priamry School, Honga, Belgaum, Ms. Ashwini, Mr. Yuvaraj Sarnaik, Ms. Deepa, Ms. Shreedevi Y. Patil, Ms. Rohini Hagargi and Shri. Mrityunjay C. Hallikerimath, Dharwad, for their consistence help, encouragement and friendship that I needed throughout my research study and incorporating confidence in time to time.

I express my gratitude to my beloved Parents Shri. Shankarayya R. Hiremath, Rtd. Principal of S.S. Comp. Pre-University College, Shivabasava Nagar, Belgaum and Smt. Veena S. Hiremath, for their unconditional love, care, encouragement, feedback, suggestions and unending moral support throughout my study. I love and respect so much, and I would not have made it this far without them. I express my heartfelt thanks to my dear younger sister Ms. Tejaswini S. Hiremath, Lect. in English, who has been a friend, guide for inspiring all along with me and for being there to listen when I needed an ear. My sincere thanks to my other family members for being there when I needed namely: Shri. T.M. Markandayya, Rtd. Village Accountant, Hospet, Shri. T. M. Shashidhar, Dy. Secretary, ZP Office, Belgaum, my dear uncles Shri. Kotresh Uttangi Social Worker, Hospet, Shri. Virupaxayya V. Hiremath, Asst. Agriculture Officer and aunts Ms. Rekha Kotresh, my loving cousins Ms. Trupti V. Hiremath, Lect. in Kannada; Ms. Mangala M. Hiremath, Lect. in Pol. Sci., Mr. Mahantesh Hiremath, KLE, Belgaum, Mr. Madivalayya M. Hiremath and Mr. Sachin S. Hiremath.

I gratefully acknowledge the blessings of His Holiness Late. Dr. Shivabasava Swamijji, Nagunur, Belgaum my dear grandparents Late. Shri. Shantveeraya, Advocate, Kudligi and Harpanahalli, Late. Smt. Jayaratnamma, Late. Shri. Rachayya V. Hiremath, Smt. Parvatamma R. Hiremath and Shri. Shivapurayya V. Hiremath.
I'm highly indebted to all the respondents of Belgaum District, who have shared their valuable information for my research study. My deep appreciations to Ms. Veena & Mr. Deepak, Sai D.T.P. & Xerox Center, Belgaum, for printing, binding and making the book available to the submission in time. Last but not the least, sincerely I thank all my other teachers, colleagues, relatives, and student friends, who have helped me directly and indirectly throughout my research course and funding when needed. If I have forgotten anyone, I honestly apologize. Thank you.

SUMANTH S. HIREMATH