PREFACE

The aim of this thesis is to shed light on the importance of land and its utilization to its optimum level during ancient and medieval periods in the history of Telugu people. It includes not only the study of the land and its utilization but also its management. Land management is an important aspect in the development of social and economic activities in any given country. Land management, includes its origin, growth, policies, but also its role and impact on the socio-economic, cultural and literary spheres. The title “Land Management and Development of Agriculture in Coastal Andhra (From early times to A.D. 1323)” is deliberately chosen because it shaped and molded the economies and cultures of the Telugu people. Its historical origin and growth are blended with the techniques adopted from time to time. It is not confined to polity only but involved many aspects of rajaneeti in ancient and medieval periods under survey.

Historically speaking, Land Management is an activity in the state polity. Its impact is felt in social, economic, ideological, cultural and literary fields. The law givers envisaged the land policy from the inception of the theory of the state. Andhra region which witnessed the reign of Mauryas, Nandas, Satavahanas, Vengi Chalukyas, Cholas and Kakatiyas besides a host of smaller dynasties. They followed the principles laid down in the Dharma Sastras scrupulously in managing the land and its affairs. By observing land management principles as laid down in the Dharma Sastras, land grants were made to different sections of the society for the services rendered by them which in turn paved the way for the development of agriculture. It resulted in surplus agricultural produce and promoted trade activity. From the times of Chalukyas of Vengi to Kakatiyas land utilization gained momentum for different purposes.

Land grants which formed the part and parcel of the land utilization gained momentum and increased the agrarian activity and created wealth. Developed agrarian economy stabilized the society and economy of the region, which in turn paved the way for cultural development of Telugu people.
Hence, the title of the thesis "Land Management and Development of Agriculture in Coastal Andhra (From early times to A.D. 1323)" is justified.

To enable the scholars, to have a clear picture that emerges from this study, separate tables showing the land and village endowments are appended to the work and all the tables are in hierarchical and chronological order. Further, the tables provide exhaustive list of land and village grants.

Epigraphical references to Land and Village grants in Coastal Andhra (From early times to A.D. 1323)"

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