ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I express my deep sense of gratitude to Dr. P. Sudhakara Reddy, Lecturer, Department of Social Anthropology, Sri Venkateswara University, for his valuable guidance at every stage of this research work.

My sincere thanks are due to Prof. A. Munirathnam Reddy, Head, Department of Social Anthropology Prof. G. Prakash Reddy, Department of Social Anthropology, for their great help and encouragement to carry out my research work successfully and to Dr. M. Suryanarayana, Reader Department of Social Anthropology, S.V. University for their suggestions during the finalisation of this work.

I wish to express my appreciation to Dr. V. Gangadhar, Lecturer, Department of Social Anthropology, Dr. K. Viswanatha Reddy, Lecturer, Department of Social Anthropology and Dr. B. V. Subba Reddy, Dr. P. Munirathnam Reddy, Research associate, Department of Social Anthropology and Dr. P. Srinivasula Reddy, Photographer-cum-artist of the Department of Social Anthropology, S.V. University, Tirupati for their kind help in the completion of my thesis work.

My heart-felt thanks are due to Miss Sita Lakshmi, Child Development Officer, Miss Srilata, M.Sc., Anganwadi Instructor and Mrs. Lalita, Anganwadi school teacher, Rayalaseema Seva Samithi, Tirupati for providing valuable information and help during my field work.
I would like to appreciate the co-operation of the respondents and the Municipal officials who gladly provided the data for my research work. Their willingness and eagerness to participate in the investigation facilitated the successful completion of my field work.

I am greatly indebted to my parents, brothers, sisters and other members of my family, specially to my eldest brother Mr. S.Sudhakar Reddy, M.A., (Ph.D,) for their constant encouragement and assistance in completing this research who are the veritable source of inspiration in my life. I wish to express my thanks to my husband Dr.S.Venkata Reddy, Scientist S.C, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, New Delhi for his encouragement and valuable suggestions.

I also highly thankful to Dr.Chandra Sekhar, M.S., Deputy Chief of the S.V.R.R. Hospital, Tirupati and Dr.Uma, M.B.B.S., for their immense help and co-operation. I offer my humble thanks to Dr.C.D.Varadachari Lecturer, S.V.Arts college, Tirupati and Sri V.Venkatramana Graduate Asst. Z.P.P.H.School, Sorakayalapalem who helped me in the language part of my thesis.

Last but not the least I wish to thank Mr. G.Hari Hara Reddy, Kiran Electronic Typing Centre, Tirupati and Mr. A.L.Mohan Rao, Typist Department of Home science, S.V.University, Tirupati, who despite their commitments spared no time in typing the manuscript with at most care.
I thank all my colleagues and staff of the Department of Social Anthropology for their helping hand in completing this thesis.

Tirupati

Date: 6-7-1992

(SOORA SANTHAKUMARI)