ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My first and most long lasting debt in the development of this dissertation is to my guide Prof. G. Lakshmaiah Naidu, Professor, Department of Sociology, Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Anantapur, who suggested this stimulating topic to me and then guided me throughout the venture. As a matter of fact, his vast knowledge and deep understanding proved to be a valuable asset in giving the present shape to this dissertation. His constant encouragement has been a source of inspiration to me.

I cordially thank Prof. Ch. Umamohan, Chairman (BOS), and Dr. B.S. Chand Basha, Associate Professor & Head, Department of Sociology, for their encouragement and valuable suggestions.

My hearty sincere thanks to Dr. R.V.K. Naidu, Associate Professor and Dr. Amarnath R. Das, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, for their kind help and co-operation throughout my research period.

I express my profound gratitude to Dr. G. Venkata Ramana, Assistant Professor of Sociology, who helped me at various levels of my research work and for his suggestions.

I was deeply indebted to Sri. M. Narasimhappa, IRS, Commissioner of Income Tax, Mysore, Sri. M. Subrahmanyam, IAS, Joint Collector, Eluru and
KSSB Fareed Baba for their encouragement, help and moral support at all stages of my life.

I would like to extend my thanks to my friends Sambasiva (JNU), Chakri & Khalandar (SVU), Anil (AP Transco), Pratap (Intelligence), Madhu, Mr. Prasad (Corporation Bank), Mohan, Seena, Chenna, Nagaraj (UOH) and B.N. Raj (Xerox) for their encouragement.

I am really thankful to my co-scholars and colleagues Sivaiah, Ahobiulesu, Ramanji, Seena, Ayyanna, Mallaiah, Rathnam, Umashankar, Kalpana, Sudarshan for their help in every stage of my work and a special thanks to Mr. Prasad garu and Dharmaiyah who encouraged me at different stages of this work.

Finally my hearty thanks to my respondents in Dharmavaram town for their co-operation and MN. Raj, Siva, Sri. Anjaneyulu and Thirumala who helped me in data collection.