ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My felicity knows no bounds in recording my deep sense of gratitude to Prof. B.R. Gopal, M.A., Ph.D., Department of History, S.K. University, Anantapur, who has extended his maximum help in the selection of the topic and who took meticulous care in putting me on the right track during the process of my work. The work would not have been completed without his immeasurable and timely guidance and valuable suggestions. Further, I am also thankful to Mrs. Padma Gopal for her affection and hospitality. I would be unfaithful, if I do not express my gratitude to the respondents and some of the key informants like J. Sarala and officials of Social Welfare Department and S.C. and S.T. Corporation of Kurnool District.

Further, I am thankful to Dr. Shrinivas Ritti for sending me some valuable material on devadasi system. I also acknowledge all possible help received from my colleagues and research scholars of the Department of History, S.K. University, Anantapur.

Finally, I am grateful to Sri. M. Srinivasa Babu, who took much care in typing this dissertation very neatly.

J. Sujana Mallika
(J. SUJANA MALLIKA) 27/10/90