ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Those who inspired, encouraged and gave me a helping hand in the preparation and propounding my thesis on a subject which appears to be simple, but needs a great thought and deliberation deserve my thankfulness.

An astute scholar and a person of firm convictions, Prof. N. Samuyelu, M.A., M.A., M.A., L.L.M., Ph.D., Professor, Centre for Dr. Ambedkar Chair, Acharya Nagarjuna University, drives his research scholars to find and state, to pursue and prove. A true teacher, he is, for whom official positions sit light on his shoulders. Unshakable in his determination, he is at once outspoken without malice at heart and in mind. Indeed, he is a guide, friend and philosopher, who guided me in the unfathomable waters of social science research, with skill and dexterity. From the bottom of my heart, I am beholden to him for the inspiration and motivation, he provided throughout my humble endeavor.

Dr. S. Murali Mohan, Research Officer, Centre for Dr. Ambedkar Chair, Acharya Nagarjuna University, always has been inspiring with his ready availability, and I thank him.

Dr. K. Somasekhar, Assistant Professor, Department of Rural Development, Acharya Nagarjuna University, assertive with flair for research always has been encouraging and helpful with his easy manner, for which I am grateful to him.

My mother, Smt. Maddu Venkayamma and my father, late Sri Maddu Pentaiah, whose upbringing with kindness, generosity and love made me what I am today. I always keep remember them.

My better half, Mrs. Lourdu Mary, B.Sc., B.Ed., School Assistant, has always been counseling, unstinted support and encouraging. I derive part of my strength from her. An unalienable part of my life, she stands by me always literally and figuratively. My daughter Praveena, and my sons, Prasanna Sagar and Kiran Kumar, always make my life fulfilled to pursue research.

I thank all my friends for their help and remember them always especially Sri Pilli Sam Prasad and Sri Nelaturi Subhash Babu, MEO, Duggirala, Guntur district.

I also express my thanks to Mr. Ch. Rajesh for his help in completing my thesis. I also thank Mr. P. Venugopal, Mr. Madhu, Mr. V.M. Kondaiah and Sri Jeeva Ratnam, Teacher, Puthalapattu, Chittoor district for their help. Further, I thank Non-teaching Staff of the Centre for Dr. Ambedkar Chair, Acharya Nagarjuna University for their help.

- Maddu Ankaiah