Acknowledgement

Dalit women constitute the lower segment of Indian society and they have been categorized as the marginalized among the marginal groups. They are worst victims of discrimination based on caste, gender and patriarchy. The 73rd Amendment of Constitution has ensured the participation of women in PRI’s. It has given new lease life to the women with political power which was a distant dream in the past. But for the enactment of 73rd Amendment Act has opened up new vistas of political opportunities and created political space for women to operate in it as the fore-runners of the local community development.

In view of this a study on ‘Dalit Women in Panchayat Raj System - A Sociological Study’ has been undertaken to assess and evaluate the relevance and impact of the 73rd Amendment Act on the women in general and Dalit women in particular.

This study has been conducted in Koppal District of Karnataka State which is considered as a backward district in North Karnataka region based on the details given by 165 Dalit women members of GP’s without whose co-operation the study would not have been accomplished. I shall deeply thank them for their kind and generous support and interaction during my course of field work in Koppal District. I thank them all.

This venture would not have been successful without the faculty fellowship (FIP) granted by the UGC, New Delhi and also the support and encouragement given by Dr.S.S.Kattimani, Principal and the Staff of Karnataka Arts College, Dharwad . I place on record my gratitude to the C.D.C,KUD for their help.
I am grateful to my Research Guide and Professor of Sociology Dr.C.A.Somashekaharappa for his valuable guidance and support. I thank him immensely for his encouragement and support for my academic achievement.

The colleagues in the Department of Sociology like Dr.Shoukat Azim, Dr.(Smt)S.C.Shettar, Dr.(Smt) Jayashree and Dr.D.B.Jyoti whose support in my academic endeavor is note worthy. I thank them profusely.

I take this opportunity to express my deep sense of love and affection to my husband Sri Sadashiv Marji and my children Kum.Neeti, Ravikirti, and Srinidhi for their help and support.

I take this opportunity to thank Kum. Suhashini Hanchate, Computer Operator and Sri Anil. Begar, Jambaladinni, Hunagund Taluk of Bagalkot District for their technical support in preparing this thesis.

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