Acknowledgement

It is with profound gratitude that I express my sincere thanks and indebtedness to Dr. C.G. Hussain Khan, Professor and Chairman, Department of Studies in Anthropology, Karnataka University, Dharwad for his abilities in inspiring guidance, keen observation and critical reviews provided to my research throughout the course of my research work. I am greatly indebted him for his patience in improving my research skills, constantly encouraging me towards enhancing the quality of this thesis.

I am especially grateful to Prof. P.B. Gai, Prof. S.V. Hiththalmani, Dr. K.C. Tarchachand, Dr. P.P. Pavate, Dr. D.M. Nayak, Dr. T.T. Basavana Gowda and Shri R.M. Girji for their kind encouragement and support.

My hearty thanks to Dr. Anand Pandurangi Dharwad, Dr. Shiva Shankar B Pol. Dr. Giridhar, Sirsi, Dr. C.R. Chandra Shekar, for their kind support given through the interviews.

I express my special thanks to Dr. A.S. Prabhakar, Dr. Hemanth Apte for their encouragement and valuable insights given to me.

I am extremely grateful to the libraries of Karnataka University Dharwad, NIMHANS, Bangalore, ICSSR, Hyderabad Central University, Hyderabad, International Diploma in Reproductive Health Management.

I am deeply grateful to one and all of the people of my field area; from the Karevakkalu community, Shri. Chinnu Gowda, Shri. Channappa Gowda, Shri. Bhskara Gowda, Shri. Manjunatha Gowda and their family.

I am grateful to my friends, relatives who introduced me to the interior settlements; Mr. Soorya Hegde Hithlalli, Mrs. Sujatha Hithlalli, Mr. Ashoka Hegde, Sampekattu, Mr. Vinayaka Balagaru, Mr. Prasanna Hirekai, Ms. Prathima Hirekai.

I am so happy to thank my relatives and friends who helped me in many ways: Mr. Ranajanth Hegde chipagi, Mr. Santhosh Bommanalli, Dr. Hema B.P., Mr. H.R. Channakki and family, Mr. B.G. Anantharamu, Mr. Vijay Hugar, Dr. Prabudha, Kanble. Dr. Sadashiva Kamble, Dr. Ambuca Kaulgi, Dr. Kala Aparaj, Ms. Roopa Patil, Mr. Rajesh Kundharagi and Ms. Ashwini Dandappanavar and also many other really helped indirectly.
I am really grateful to Mahaganapathi Computers, for neat printing and Binding.

It is My Sweat family members supported me a lot…

My first thanks goes to my baby Sheryas as he missed me a lot in these days.

I am deeply indebted to my Parents Shri Mahabaleshwara S Hegde and Smt. Shreemathi M. Hegde, Husband Prasanna C. Hegde, Sister Veena S Hegde, Brother in law Satish Hegde, Brother Shankaranarayana and sister Ramya Hegde, in — laws Shri Chandrashekara Hegde, Smt. Yashodha Hegde.

-Rashmi Hegde