

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I deem it my primary duty to express my deep sense of gratitude to those without whose cooperation and guidance it would not have been possible for me to bring out this thesis in the present form.

The thesis was prepared under the esteemed guidance of Dr (Mrs) Anuradha Bhoite - Professor of Sociology (University of Poona) to whom I am highly indebted. I shall be ever grateful to Dr (Mrs) Anuradha Bhoite for her sympathetic guidance in conducting the research work and for her meticulous reading, comments and corrections at various stages of writing this thesis. But for her constant encouragement and wise counsel and occasional goading, the present thesis would not have seen the light of the day.

My thanks are due to the Management and Principal of my college (Sri Poorna Prajna Evening College, Udupi) for granting me a permission to take up the research work. I thank immensely, the teaching and non-teaching staff of Poorna Prajna Colleges, St. Aloysius College, University of Poona, Karnataka University for having assisted me by supplying books and journals etc., for reference. I particularly mention here the name of Fr. Alphonsus B. D'Souza - Head of the Dept. of Sociology (St. Aloysius College, Mangalore).

I am deeply grateful to the leaders, officials, followers, close associates and informants of Nimbargi Sampradaya for providing me with useful material, photographs, biographies etc., and also for their blessings and hospitality.

Mr. Yashavantha Achar - Head of the Dept. of English - Sri Poorna Prajna Evening College, Smt Hilda D'Silva - Selection Grade Lecturer - St. Milagres College, Kallianpur (D.K.) and a few others were kind enough to go through the manuscript and to edit it suitably. I remain very much grateful to them for their valuable suggestions and fruitful co-operation.

My poor vocabulary is unable to express deep gratitude to Sri. S. D. Maggavi, Sri. A. S. Bhoi and Kum. K. R. Tugashetti Belgaum, who are responsible not only for data processing but for bringing out the print-out of the thesis expeditiously in a neat and careful manner with the help of Computer.

I would like to record with a deep sense of gratitude and love, the inspiration and support that I have received from Dr Uttam Bhoite - Head of the Dept. of Sociology (University of Poona, Pune) Dr. A. E. Punit Head of the Dept. of Sociology, (Karnataka University Dharwad), Dr. Kanitkar (Pune), Prof. S.D. Akole (Sangli). I have put up in the houses of my relatives, friends, Sadhakas in different places during my research work. I shall remain ever grateful to all of them.

I shall be failing in my duty, if I do not record with respectful love the constant support and strength that I have been getting from my mother (Smt. P.B. Dabade), Wife (Archana K. Dabade). I thank my two sons - Ananya and Neehar, otherwise they would feel neglected. Finally, I must say that my late father-in-law and father could have given their pleasant smile to see the successful completion of the research. But Alas!

PUNE  
1993

K. B. DABADE.