ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wholeheartedly express my gratitude to Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, the Management and Dr. M. Arthanari, Principal, Erode Arts College (Autonomous), Erode-9, the Management and the Principal of NMSSVN College, Madurai-19 for having given me their consent to undertake the research work during 1999-2004 under part-time programme for the award of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in commerce.

It is my privilege to extend my sincere thanks to my Guide and Supervisor Dr. A. Venkatachalam, M.Com., M.Phil., M.B.A., Ph.D., Reader in Commerce (PG), NMSSVN College (M.K. University), Madurai-19 for having extended to me his unflinching support and suitable suggestions and ideas that helped me to complete this research project. I am highly indebted to him and his family members for their kind hospitality.

I am thankful to Prof. M. Balachandran, HOD of Commerce, all my colleagues in the Department of Commerce, Dr. M. A. Balamurugan, Prof. M. Ilango, Prof. P. Palaniappan, Prof. M. R. Shanmugam of Erode Arts College, Erode, Dr. K. Natarajan, HOD of Commerce, Dr. T. Vanniaraajan, and all members of staff of the Department of Commerce of NMSSVN College, Madurai for their sincere and significant support, valuable suggestions and encouragement which went a long way in bringing out this thesis.
I am deeply indebted to Dr.A.Arunachalam, Reader in English and Dr.A.Vijayakumar, Reader in Commerce, Erode Arts College, Prof.J.S.AruIraj, H.O.D of English, Kongu Engineering College, Perundurai and all the non-teaching staff members of Bharathiar University, Coimbatore and Erode Arts College, Erode for their constant encouragement and co-operation throughout the process of bringing out the thesis successfully.

My thanks are due to Dr.M.Annadurai, Librarian, Erode Arts College, Erode, Secretaries and Staff members of the cement companies under study, ICSSR, MIDS, IFMR, Chennai, Centre for Urban Environmental Studies, and IPE, Hyderabad for having provided me with all necessary material facts and figures which were essential for the present study.

I am very grateful to Thiru.C.K.Kumaraswamy, M.A., B.L., Former Registrar of the University of Madras, Chennai, to my brothers, sisters, relatives, friends, my wife Smt.R.Vasantha, daughter R.Gomathi, M.Com., son R. Mahesh, M.C.A., and all other well wishers for their continuous support extended to me in my life in general and in this research work in particular.

I place on record my appreciation to Ganesh Computers, Erode for having executed this thesis neatly.

If I, by any chance, have inadvertently left out any one without acknowledging his/her contribution, I only crave their indulgence.

S.RAMASAMY