ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am very much indebted to my guide Dr. N. Manimekalai, Senior Lecturer in Economics, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirapalli – 24, for her astute academic help extended at various stages of this work and her constant guidance without which I could not have completed this research work.

I wish to express my thanks Dr. V.B. Athreya, Prof. and Head, Department of Economics, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirapalli-24.

It is my great pleasure to thank Dr. C. Thangamuthu, Professor, Department of Economics, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirapalli-24 who has been a constant source of inspiration which gave me the needed encouragement to go on with my work.

I express my deep sense of gratitude to Dr. Lakshmi, Dr. S. Iyyampillai, Dr. M. Ravichandran and Dr. V. Backiyavathi, for their valuable comments and suggestions.

I acknowledge with thanks to the following experts, Prof. Ramesh Kanbargi Department of Sociology, Institute of Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bangalore and Dr. S. Rajendren, Reader in Economics, Mysore University, Karnataka, for their valuable suggestions and academic help rendered.

I extended my thanks to Dr. J. Jayaranjan, Director, Dr. Anbalzagan, Research Associate, Mr. M. Ramadasu, Research Associate, Institute of Development Alternative (IDA), Chennai for their academic suggestions and the various discussions which was useful for my research.
Dr. A. Narayanamoothy, Reader, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune. Dr. R. Karthikeyan, Lecturer in Economics, AVC College, Mayiladuthurai. Dr. R. Rajendren, Lecturer in Economics, Government College, Kumbakonam. Dr. N. Jayakumar, Project Associate, Madras School of Economics, Chennai. Dr. Venkatachalam, Lecturer in Sociology, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirapalli, for sharing their academic expertise and thoughtful help provided at every stage of the work.

I owe a debt of gratitude to Prof. K. Shanmugavativelu, Department of Statistics, St. Joseph’s College, Thrichirapalli, for his extreme help rendered for my research work.

Mr. G.V. Gopinath, Development Consultant, Pudukkottai and Project Co-ordinator, NCLPs and Staff, Pudukkottai, Camp Officer for their extreme help rendered in the collection of data for my research work.

I am very grateful to Mr. A. Mohamed Abdullah, Research Scholar, Department of Economics, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirapalli, for his constant help and encouragement rendered at all stages of this research work.

Mr. R. Manimohan, Research Scholar, Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS), Chennai, for his valuable suggestions and critical comments at many stages of the work.

Dr. A. Arulraj, Mr. V. Murugesan, Mr. K. Karunaharan, Mr. A. Sambantham, Mr. S. Boopathy, Mr. A. Sankar, Mr. S. Saravanan, Mr. A. Manivel, Mrs. A. Valliammai, Mrs. G. Rajeswari, Mr. A. Kannan, friends and other research scholars, Department of Economics, Bharathidasan University, Trichirapalli, for their cooperation and support.
My thanks is due to Miss. P. Sumathi, Research Scholar, Department of Economics, Bharathidasan University, Trichirapalli, for her encouragement and continuous help throughout the writing of the thesis. Miss. Laura Delano, Research Scholar, Department of English, Bharathidasan University, Trichirapalli, for the patient correction of the script.

Mr. P. Gasper, Executive Director and Mrs. G. Mary Corina, Asst. Director and other staff, Kennedy Institute of Research & Development Services (KIRDS), Pudukkottai, for their moral support and timely guidance.

Mr. S. Sivanantham, Mr. M. Alagesan, Mr. S. Perumal and Mr. M. Manoharan, office members and I extend my sincere thanks to the Librarian and also to other staff members of the library, Bharathidasan University, for their help and cooperation.

I am deeply thankful to Mr. N. Durairaj Muthulakshmi, Department of Revenue, Pudukkottai, Mr. C. Karuppiah, Thiruppur, for their constant encouragement.

I thank the respondents of this study for their kind cooperation in providing the primary information, without which this thesis could not be completed.

Above all, I am very much grateful to my parents and sister for their tireless help throughout my study. No words can express my thanks for their sacrifices.

(R. KUNJAMMAL)