ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

My first and foremost thanks, which I would like to express is the Almighty God for his grace and blessing showered upon me.

I express my profound sense of gratitude to my Research Supervisor, Dr. V. Alagappan, Senior Professor (Retired) and Head, Department of Commerce, Madurai Kamaraj University, Palkalai Nagar, Madurai. This thesis could not have been completed without his intelligent guidance, caring attitude, patience, advice and encouragement throughout the period of my research.

I would like to register my sincere thanks to Mr. M. Vijayaraghavan, Secretary, Mannar Thirumalai Naicker College, Madurai and Dr. S. Nehru, the Principal, Mannar Thirumalai Naicker College, Madurai for their kind support and encouragement for the research work.

I express my genuine gratefulness to Dr. R. Sannasi, Associate Professor and Head of the Department (Retired) of Mannar Thirumalai Naicker College, Madurai for his critical evaluation of my study during the course of my research work.

I profusely thank Dr. S. Venkateswaran, Associate Professor, Department of Commerce, Mannar Thirumalai Naicker College, Madurai for his continuous support, encouragement and his suggestions with regard to the application of statistical tools.

I would like to convey my thanks to Dr. M. R. Chandran for his timely help in proof reading the thesis.
I would like to acknowledge and thank Dr.K.Balamurugan, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Mannar Thirumalai Naicker College, Madurai for his continuous help in typing and other research related works.

I would like to thank my Colleagues Dr.N.Thenpandian, Dr.C.G.Ramkumar Singh, Dr.M.Sakthivel, Prof.T.Agnes Natchathiram, Dr. K.Ashok, and Dr.V.Geetha for their encouragement and support.

Great thanks to my parents and my family members for their endless love and caring that has made me succeed in life.

G.Ragupathy.