ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am immensely happy to place on record my sincere gratitude to my Research guide and supervisor Dr. P. K. MUTHAPPAN, Professor & Head, Department of Corporate Secretaryship, Alagappa University, Karaikudi for his sustained encouragement, competent counsel, constructive criticisms, understanding of the research area of my interest and trust on my capability throughout the course of my work.

I am grateful to the Vice-Chancellor and the Registrar, Alagappa University for having permitted me to carry out this research work in Commerce as a part-time research scholar.

I am thankful to Dr. Selvam, Professor & Head, Department of Commerce, Alagappa University for his approval of the topic of my research and constant support.

I am much delighted to convey my deep sense of gratitude to the management of Loyola College (Autonomous), Chennai for having allowed me to pursue my doctoral degree in Alagappa University.

I take this opportunity as an honour to place my heart-felt thanks to my friends Dr. R. Maria Inigo and Dr. S. Sharon Sophia for their valuable suggestions and support at various levels during the progress of my research work.
It was really a moment of pleasure to work with Dr. K.G. Jayaparakash, a statistical consultant who helped me in applying the appropriate statistical tools to this research. I thank him very sincerely.

In this occasion, I honestly appreciate the encouragement of my children to complete this research work. Of course, the successful completion of this research would have not been possible without the moral support of my wife. I thank her affectionately.

In the course of this research work, a good number of academicians have been consulted. I thank all of them for their valuable criticisms and support.

J.J.SOUNDARARAJ