Acknowledgement

I take the opportunity to express my gratitude to those who had continuously encouraged me to carry out the exercise with their valuable suggestions & advise and extended their physical and mental support without which my work could not have been possible.

I would like to convey my regards to Dr. Arijita Dutta, Professor, Department of Economics, Calcutta University for giving me the opportunity to conduct the research under her active supervision. From the early days of planning of the thesis to the days of preparing the dissertation, she extended her effective guidance without which this thesis could not have been successfully concluded. Her vast hands on experience on the specialised subject and close associations with various Government and Non-government departments helped me a lot to select and access to the segments to collect the data for primary research. The result oriented data analysis would not be possible without her in time guidance and through understanding of the field work. I am fortunate enough to have an access to her international and national publications which helped me to understand the subject to prepare my own draft. I have utilised her long experience to find out relevant topics in national and international publications to comprehend the subject. She encouraged me a lot to participate in a number of conferences & seminars and extended her guidance to prepare the background materials for the seminars. Moreover, apart from her excellent personality, I have recognised her as a person with superior moral values.

I would like to give thanks to Dr. Sarmila Banerjee, Rajiv Gandhi Chair Professor, Department of Economics, Calcutta University for extending her support to enable me to complete my work. In the course of doing the research, I found her as a true mentor.

It has been a privilege to give thanks to the Department of Economics of University of Calcutta to be associated with them once again during the tenure of the programme.

Scottish Church College, where I have been teaching for last 8 years, extended all possible support and happily agreed to grant me permission for pursuing this research. I give thanks to my colleagues of the college who have been given invaluable and constant mental support all through the programme duration.
I am thankful to my husband for extending his constant support throughout this period. I am indebted to Spandan, my toddler, who unknowingly sacrificed his best time for the sake of my work. I would not have been able to complete this work without the strong mental support of my mother. It is my mother and deceased father whose blessings on me made me believe that I could do this despite a number of odd situations faced during the period and I never lost my self-confidence. I wish, this attempt is a tribute to them from my end.