ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

With deep sense of gratitude the investigator places on record his profound indebtedness to his supervising teacher, Dr. Roy C Mathew, Associate Professor, School of Gandhian Thought and Development Studies for the immense patience, valuable suggestions and profound counsel meted out by him during the course of this study.

The investigator expresses his grateful obligation to Dr. M.S John, Professor and Director, School of Gandhian Thought and Development Studies and former Director Dr. Maharajan for their constant encouragement, care and concern. He is also thankful to all the other faculties and non teaching staff of the School of Gandhian Thought and Development Studies for their cooperation and assistance.

The investigator remembers with gratitude the timely help and assistance rendered by the Library staff and Librarians of School of Gandhian Thought and Development Studies, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala University and the Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram and State Archives, Thiruvananthapuram.

The investigator acknowledges his profound gratitude to the teachers and principals of government and private schools as well as managers of private schools, where the survey was conducted, for their ready and relevant responses that have made this study a reality.

The keen and perspicacious observations of Dr. David Kideckal, Director, Department of International Studies and Area Studies, Central Connecticut State University, USA, deserve special acknowledgement.

The investigator is grateful to his parents - his father who helped him in editing the thesis and his mother who is always a source of encouragement. Above all the persistent guidance of the Almighty has been the strength all through this endeavour.

Arun Babu Zachariah