ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First of all, I should praise and thank God, the Almighty for the boundless blessings which led me to the completion of this work discarding all difficulties.

Any research work of this kind would need the magic touch of the scholar to bring it into a shape and to finish it with a grand finale. I owe a lot to my supervisor Dr. G. Arivarigaaaa, Professor and Head, Department of Applied Maths and Statistics, M.K. University, Madurai for doing both. The long hours of my sittings with him enabled me to sharpen my focus on thrust areas and brighten my presentation with polished expressions. I cherish the long discussion I had with him and the pointed questions he raised during the discussion which helped me to articulate better.

I wish to place on record my sincere gratitude to Br. EL Sampatfa Kwisnar, Professor and Head, Department of Statistics, Maiionmaniam Sundharanar University, Thirunelveli and member of the doctoral committee, for his intensive and commendable support at various stages of this research endeavour.

I convey my heartfelt gratitude to Bar. M.A. Swdlair, Professor and Head, Department of Applied Research, GRI, Gandhigram for going through the major portions of the manuscript of the thesis and suggesting improvements.

I thank Dr. S. Kesavan, Professor of Applied Research, Department of Applied Research, GRI, Gandhigram for the cooperation, support and guidance extended to me during all these days.

I thank Dr. K. Raja Mohan Rao, Reader in Economics, Department of Economics; Dr. BS.P. Boralan, Reader in Extension, Department of Extension and, Dr. B.S. Nagarajan former Professor in
Extension, Department of Extension, GRI, Gandhigram who have made solicitous assistance and for their helping hands in innumerable ways to pursue the studies the best possible manner.

I am thankful to my colleagues Ms. S. SliasiEiugaiM, Research Officer and Mr. A. Balakiisliaasi, Lecturer and friends in the Department of Applied Research for their support and cooperation.

The researcher recalls and expresses thanks to the authorities of GRI for giving an opportunity to register as a part time Research Scholar.

This work in the present form, is the tireless efforts made by Dr. Mo Kis&esidafaBa Reader in English, Department of English, Gandhigram and Eieaiaedy Oadaba Osigajpo, Research Scholar in Economics, Gandhigram in editing and language correction. My credit goes to them.

I thank the officials of the District Informatics Centre (DIG), Dindigul, Statistics Department, Dindigul for providing me with the required information.

As part of my effort to review studies, I paid visits to the Libraries of NIRD, Hydrabad; M.K. University, Madurai; GIRH & FWT, Ambathurai; Madras University, Chennai. I thank the authorities of these Institutions and Librarians for permitting me to use their Libraries.

Finally, I express my appreciation to Mr. K. SentMI Kumar, Vedlia Computers., Gandhigram for his diligence in typing the manuscript at different stages throughout this work.

C. SIVAPRAGASAM