ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I take this opportunity to commemorate the grace of my Lord that inspired and helped me to complete this thesis.

I express my whole hatred gratitude to my guide Dr. Varghese K. Varghese, Head, Social Work Department, RCSS, Kalamassery for his valuable guidance, suggestions, insights and supervision throughout the research programme. I acknowledge that without his consistent assistance this research would not have become a reality.

I am greatly thankful to Rev. Fr. Jose Alex, (former principal) and Dr. Antony Kariyil, (present principal) Mr. Robert and team (Library) of Rajagiri College of Social Sciences, Kalamassery for their concern and encouragement with supporting hands. I also thank all other teachers and staff members of RCSS, for their motivation and help. The timely corrections and suggestions of the co-research scholars also is remembered with gratitude.

I am highly indebted to the teachers and students of the State Syllabus and Centre Syllabus (CBSE) Higher Secondary Schools in Kochi Corporation for their benevolence and for providing me with the data required for this research.

The valuable assistance provided by staff, Educational Department Library, Kerala University, Thiruvananthapuram, DR. C.B. Asha and others in the Psychology Department, Calicut University; Staff of M.G. University; My Colleagues and Students in Sree Sankaracharya University Kalady are also admitted thankfully.

Mr. Sreekumar of Infotech Computers Kalady, Miss. Meloble, Miss Listy and Mr. Biju Kottackal (Penta Graphics Athani) also helped this endeavour through their assistance and is acknowledged with thanks.
I also admit the scholarly interventions of Dr. Sebastian Mampilly, (SMS Kochi) Prof. Ramachandran (TISS, Mumbai) Dr. Vasantha Ramkumar (Kerala University) and Dr. C.B. Asha (Calicut University) with thanks.

The assistance of Mr. Ajith of CSES and CRPC, Palarivattam Ernakulam in the process of data analysis is really great and I express my sincere gratitude to them.

My heartfelt gratitude and thanks are extended to my family members, relatives, friends and well wishers who have supported and helped me to fulfil this task.

JOSE ANTONY