ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude and indebtedness to many scholars and institutions that have helped me at various stages of this study.

This thesis is prepared under the supervision and guidance of Dr. V.P Raghavan, Director, People Institute of Management Studies, Munnad, Kasaragod. He has always been a profound source of inspiration and encouragement and without his able guidance and constant directions, this work would not have taken this form and shape. Despite his busy official duties, Dr. Raghavan found time to go through the successive drafts with meticulous care patience and gave effective suggestions at all stages of this Thesis. To him, I express my heartfelt gratitude.

I am gratefully indebted to Dr. Ananda Bhanu and Dr. T. Ashokan, former Heads of Research Centre, Kannur University Central Library for their assistance and support. I am grateful to Dr. Sudha, Head, Research Centre, Kannur University Central Library, who provided me all help to conduct my study at Kannur University Central Library. I also express my gratitude to Dr. T.K Sebastian, Dr. N.J Saleena and Sri Sibi P.M for their valuable comments and suggestions. My heartfelt thanks are also to Dr. Gangadharan, Head, Department of Economics, Palayad, the discussions with him really aroused my interest in the topic. I express my thanks to staff, P.G. Department of Economics, Nirmalagiri College, staffs of Kannur University, Palayad Campus Library, and Staffs of Library, Cetre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram. I also express my gratitude to staffs of District Medical Office, Kannur, District Panchayath Office, Kannur, Block panchayath offices, Kannur and Anganwadi workers of my study area.

I am thankful to all the staffs of Kannur University Central Library for their kindful behaviour and co-operation. I express my gratitude to all the teaching staffs, Govt, College of Engineering, Kannur for the help they extended in completing this thesis.
I derived a lot of inspiration and encouragement from Sri. Priyesh, my husband and his help made my efforts easier. He has been a continuous source of inspiration in the course of my work. I acknowledge my sincere thanks to him. I am also grateful to my son, who allowed me to do the work without any disturbance. My indebtedness to my mother, brother and all friends is beyond words.

I also remember with gratitude the service rendered by Sri, Rahesh, for the statistical assistance. I am also grateful to Smt. Ani and Smt. Sunitha, Kudumbasree workers who helped me to do the field survey.

Above all, I remember God Almighty for the abundant blessings bestowed on me without which I could not have completed this work.

SINDHU.N