ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

“The master speed
And you were given this swiftness, not for haste
Nor chiefly that you may go where you will,
But in the rush of everything to waste,
That you may have the power of standing still.”

Robert Frost

Pursuing a Ph.D., project is a both painful and enjoyable experience. It’s just like climbing a high peak, step by step, accompanied with bitterness, hardships, frustration, encouragement and trust and with so many people’s kind help. When I found myself at the top enjoying the beautiful scenery, I realized that it was, in fact, team work that got me there. Though it will not be enough to express my gratitude in words to all those people who helped me, I would still like to give my many, many thanks to all the people.

I am extremely indebted to the Vice-Chancellor, the Registrar, and Dr. N. Rajendhiran, Professor cum Director (PRIMS), Periyar University, Salem for providing all the necessary facilities to carry out this research work.

First of all, I would like to express my sincere thanks to my honorific supervisor, Prof. Dr. J. Senthil Velmurugan, MBA, M.Com, Ph.D, PGDCA., who accepted me as his Ph.D., scholar without any hesitation when I presented him my research proposal. Thereafter, he offered me so much advice, patiently supervising me, and always guiding me in the right direction. I have learned a lot from him and without his help I could not have finished my thesis successfully.

I would like to express my deep sense of thanks to Dr. L. Manivannan, Reader, Department of corporate secretaryship, Erode Arts College, Erode, for his valuable suggestions and advice. I would like to
thank the Faculties of *PRIMS*, Dr. V. R. Palanivelu, Associate Professor, Dr. T. Sarathy, Dr. P. Thirumoorthi, and Dr. R. Subramaniya Bharathy, Assistant Professors.

I proffer my greatness to Shrimathi. A. Kannammal, Secretary, Correspondent and Managing Trustee, Salem Sowdeswari College for giving me an opportunity to accomplish my intention of acquiring the honourable degree, Ph.D.

I express my sincere gratitude to Prof. Dr. V. Balaji, Principal i/c, Salem Sowdeswari College, for supporting me in the steps I have taken for my research work. I am grateful to all the Doctors and Nurses who co-operated with me by spending their precious time in giving the required data for the study.

I am deeply indebted to Dr. J. Josephine Daisy., M.Com., M.Phil., MBA., Ph.D, for her extensive guidance and support throughout my research and career. Thanks to all my colleagues of Mahendra Arts and Science College Kalipatti, and Salem Sowdeswari College.

I place on record my sincere thanks to Dr. D. Kumaresan, Principal of Minerva College of Arts and Science, Jalakantapuram, for helping me in the analysis of my research data. I am grateful to Ms. S. Jothipriya., M.Com., M.Phil., and Mrs. S. Kavitha, M.Com., MBA., M.Phil., who were kind enough to help in all aspects of research.

I extend my profused thanks to the librarians of various Universities and the officers of health department who have provided relevant information for my study.

I also thank the enumerators, students and local helpers. Without their assistance, the collection of field data would not have been possible.
It was my husband Shri. R. Arumugam who prompted to take up this task and remained motivating throughout the course of the work, bearing all the inconveniences. His steadfast concern and unsurpassed motivation helped me to commit when times were hard. This work would not have been materialised but for his constant encouragement. I express my affectionate gratitude to my Father Shri. K. Subramani, Mother Smt. Saroja, Sister Sharmila, Brother Yuvaraja and my lovable children Iniyan and Dharshini for their support, useful suggestions and co-operation.

I express my sincere thanks to Ms. A. Chitra, Registrar office, Periyar University who helped me to take the printed copies of my thesis successfully.

Above all my heart goes out in profound gratitude to God Almighty for enduring me with courage and confidence for guiding over several personal hurdles and enabled me to complete the work.

(S. Mahalakshmi)