ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Words cannot express my gratitude and indebtedness to my supervising guide Dr. P.K. Sundaresan. His mental and intellectual bandwidth is enormous, so is his prowess in giving practical shape to worthwhile ideas. I have the rare privilege and fortune of getting his caring help, brotherly affection and guidance at all stages of my research. Without his meticulous and painstaking effort, this thesis would not have materialised.

It has been an enriching experience to work as a research student in the Department of Commerce and Research Centre, St. Albert's College, Ernakulam. One could feel encouraged and motivated to undertake research at this prestigious centre.

I am immensely thankful to Prof. M.R. Joseph, Principal, St. Albert's College, Ernakulam, for having permitted me to do research. His constant encouragement and achievement orientation has been invaluable.

Let me thank Prof. Paul Cornelius, Head of the Department of Commerce for his timely assistance and for providing the necessary infrastructure in the Department. Innumerable are the contributions of my colleagues in supporting and inspiring me to complete the thesis in time.

I must also take this opportunity to thank Mr. Johny. J. Kannampilly, President of the Cochin Stock Exchange, Mr. Sanilkumar N, Senior Officer, Public Relations, Mr. Sanjeev P.C., Deputy Manager (Finance) and the member brokers of the CSE who helped me by providing the necessary information from time to time to complete the study.
At this stage I must also express my deep sense of gratitude to Mr. Leslie Thomas, Dept. of English for his fruitful and priceless assistance in proof reading.

I am obliged to the Librarians of British Council Library, Kerala University Library and Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram, Cochin University Libraries and St. Albert's College Library for their precious and useful service.

I would like to acknowledge the services rendered by M/s. Twinkle DTP Centre, South Kalamassery for the precise and skilful printing and binding of the thesis.

Finally, I thank my wife and children for their unending co-operation and wholehearted tolerance extended to me in the long hours of work and endurance.

K. T. Peter