PREFACE

At the very doorstep of my thesis, I bow my head before God Almighty for giving me the strength and presence of mind for the successful completion this thesis.

I am greatly indebted to my guide Dr. Alex Thannippara for his meticulous guidance, constructive exchange of ideas, concrete criticisms and constant support during the entire period of my research work. I also express my heartfelt gratitude to him for facilitating me in various ways.

It is a pleasure and privilege to acknowledge and place on record the valuable help and constant guidance given by Dr. D.K. Ghosh, Professor and Head, Department of Statistics, Saurashtra University, Rajkot, Gujrat in writing the thesis, which got this thesis off the ground.

I am also grateful to the University Grants Commission, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, Government of Kerala and the Principal and Management of Kuriakose Elias College, Mannanam for sanctioning the teacher fellowship and granting me deputation for completing this work.

I thankfully acknowledge the help rendered by the Principal and the staff, St. Thomas College, Pala and the Director and the staff, Centre for Mathematical Sciences, Pala Campus by providing me with library and computer facilities.

Probably the most deserving thanks, I owe to Dr. K.K. Jose, Reader and Head, Department of Statistics, St. Thomas College, Pala and the Staff members of the department for their generous help and constant inspiration throughout
the period of my research work.

I am particularly grateful to Prof. Dr. M.N. Das, former Director, Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute, New Delhi and Dr. Ashish Das, Professor of Statistics, Indian Statistical Institute, New Delhi for their valuable suggestions in the preparation of this thesis.

I owe a debt of gratitude to the Directors and Librarians of Indian Statistical Institute, New Delhi and Kolkata, Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute, New Delhi and Saurashtra University, Rajkot for permitting me to avail the library and computer facilities.

I also wish to place on record my inestimable gratitude for the support given by various Provincials, St. Joseph’s Province, Thiruvananthapuram and my Priors and Community, St. Joseph’s Monastery, Mannanam, who were my Superiors during the tenure of the preparation of my theses.

Finally, I extend my love and gratitude to all the many who walked with me, giving me a helping hand during my pursuit of Ph.D.

Place: Pala                      Joseph O.C.
Date : 30.03.2007