ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I express my deep and profound gratitude to my Supervising Teacher, Dr. C. Krishnan, Associate Professor, Kodanchery Govt. College, Calicut, for his valuable suggestion, critical account and encouragement. During the course of this work he has immensely helped me for making this work a fruitful one.

It is an emotion of gratitude emerging from my heart to Smt. Rajeswari, my wife and Sreehari, my son for sparing me and baring with me while I consumed time for carrying out this piece of work. Their love and motivation has been a driven force to me as well. The blessings from my parents, Padmanabhan Nair and Leela are always with me. Without their love and affection this work may not be possible.

I express my sincere thanks to Dr. K.P. Mani, Professor and Head of the Department of Economics, University of Calicut, Aranattukara, Thrissur, for his suggestions and encouragement. I am also thankful to Dr. D.P. Nair, Dr. Lakshmidevi K.R. and all the faculties of John Mathai's Centre who have been helped and blessed me to accomplish this task.

I am also express my heartfelt thanks to Dr. P.K. Manoj, Asst. Professor, Department of Applied Economics, CUSAT whose timely advice and support helped me a lot.

I am very much thankful to Dr. R.V.G. Menon the eminent social activist and former director of ANERT, Thiruvananthapuram and IRTC, Mundur, Palakkad, who gave me the first research exposure by placed me as Research Associate in IRTC.

I also remember with a sense of gratitude to Prof. Sumangalakutty, Former HOD, Govt. Victoria College, Palakkad who taught me and inspired me into Economics.

I am deeply indebted to my elder brother Dr. P. Pramod, Senior Scientist, SACON, Anakkatty, Coimbatore for his immense support and inspiration in the research discussions throughout the period.

I extend my sincere thanks to all the respondents participated in the survey for spacing their valuable time and providing information for the study. I am also thankful to other officials in different offices especially
District Industries Centre, Palakkad for their co-operation in the data collection.

The encouragement and co-operation from the Manager and Staffs of my office, KSFE, Main Branch, Palakkad is unforgettable. So my sincere thanks to them all. I can never forget my friend Sri. Mujeebudeen C.K. statistical investigator grade I, Department of Economics and Statistics, Idukki for his immense support during the period of research work.

I do express my thanks to Sri. Ashok Classic, Palakkad for computer and DTP support.

Finally, I express endless sense of emotions to my Spiritual Master, Sri. Parthasaradhi Rajagopalachari to bring me upto this stage.

PRADEEP. P.