ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

With immense sentiments of appreciation, I hereby wish to express my thankfulness to many people I have come across during the research study.

I particularly wish to acknowledge my indebtedness and heartfelt gratitude to my guide, Dr. Uma Shankar Patnaik, Reader, Department of Economics, Pondicherry University, Pondicherry, for his innovative guidance and friendly co-operation at various stages of the research work.

I am greatly indebted to Dr. B. Kamaiah, Professor, RBI Endowment Unit, ISEC, Nagarbhavi Bangalore, Dr. Abdul Aziz, Professor and Head, Decentralized Governance and planning, ISEC Nagarabhavi, Bangalore. Dr. R. Ellango, Professor and Head Department of Economics Annamalai University, Chidambaram, Dr. Sivaskam, Reader, Department of Statistics Annamalai University, Chidambaram. Who went through the manuscript and provided valuable comments, which enabled be to sharpen arguments presented in the study.
I am profoundly grateful to Dr.K.Ramachandran, Director, Community College, Pondicherry University, for extending me his kind help and support at the time of data analysis.

My sincere thanks are due to Dr.K. Sham Bhat, Professor and Head, Department of Economics. Dr. Muthaiayan, Reader Dr.V.Nirmala, Lecturer, Dr. RadhaKrishnan, Lecturer Department of Economics, Pondicherry University, Pondicherry for their continuous encouragement, support and assistance.

My heart full thanks to Dr. Parthasarathy, Director of planning and Development Studies, Vishakapatnam, Dr. Ratnam and Dr. DesingaRaj, Department of Economics, Andhra University, for their help during my stay at Vishakapatnam.

My sincere thanks to the members of the following institutions who have availed their libraries to collect research materials; Pondicherry University, Pondicherry; Annamalai University, Chidambaram; Andhra University, Waltair, Institute of Planning and Development studies, Waltair, Institute of socio- economic change, Nagar Bhavi, Bangalore.
I am deeply grateful to Mrs. A. Vimala, Dr.S. Kumuda and Mr.C.V. Mohan principals Dr. S.R.K. Govt. Arts College, Yanam, P.G.C.W. and TAC Pondicherry who extended their co-operation to carry out my research. My warm appreciation to Dr. E.M.Rajan, Department of Economics, P.G.Centre who generously rendered his help in proof reading and gave me every support at the final stage of the thesis.

Profound thanks to Dr.Dharmalingam, Dr.Sambandhan, Dr.E.M.Rajan, who helped me a special partner in shaping the thesis. I also express my gratitude to Mr. S.Arunagiri, Who helped me in data processing and computer typing. My thanks to Non-Teaching Staff of Economics Department, Pondicherry University for their generous co-operation.

It is my pleasure to convey my appreciation too my wife and children who gave me incentive to hard work. I am thankful to my son to Mr. S.Narasimhan who took Personnel interest, affection and support. I warmly extend my love and appreciation to all my Friends and well-wishers who have directly or indirectly helped me in the completion of the research.

S. Bhuvaneswari
S. BHYRAVAMURTY