ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I thank God Almighty who is always by my side. I have always felt His guiding presence and miraculous interventions in my life especially in the years of my Doctoral study. His words of assurance gave me strength to pursue till its completion.

It is with a heart, filled with gratitude that I express my sincere words of thanks to my Guide and Research Supervisor Prof. Dr. Mumtaz Begum, Associate Professor, School of Education, Pondicherry University, Puducherry, for her meticulous guidance, enthusiasm, valuable suggestions, encouragement, continued support and critical perusal of the thesis throughout.

The researcher wishes to thank the Vice-Chancellor, Registrar, Director-Research and Development Centre and all other authorities of Bharathiar University, Coimbatore for providing me an opportunity to do this research work successfully. The timely help extended to me by Dr. B. Mohan Kumar during the important stages of my Ph.D. can never be forgotten. I place on record my sincere words of gratitude to him.

I am also grateful to Dr.B.Anboucarassy, Dr.V.Thilagavathy, Dr.T.Uvaraj, Mrs.D Vadivarasi, Mr. Sushant Kumar, Ms. Kowsalya.

My words of gratitude to the following people for their contribution to my research work-Dr.Haneef, Dr. V P Shivakumar, Jubie, Parvathi, Gururaj, Jomesh, Mr.Kotresh, Mrs.Santhoshi, Mr.Eeshwar, Kumaraguru, Savita, Raheena and Pagadala Kondala Rao.

I am indebted to the following people for their guidance and support all through my study period - Dr.Babu Savio, Mr.Anwar, Fr.Regis, Prof. Babu Emmanuel, Mr. Thomas Suresh, Sr.Deepa, Fr. Sunny T.J, Fr. Jose Mathew, Fr. Thomas Anchukandam, Fr.Anil Dza, Sr.Mini.

My sense of gratitude to Bosco Oniyavara Seva Coota (BOSCO), Bangalore for all the support.

I am grateful to my parents, brothers and sister and their family for the support they have extended to me.

JOSHY THOMAS P