ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I record my profound sense of gratitude to my supervisor and Guide Dr. M. Manickam, M.Com., Ph.D., Professor and Head, Department of Commerce, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore for his continuous encouragement and guidance at every stage of my work. I thank him for his paternal interest in me.

I would like to thank Dr. R. Shanmugam, School of Management, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore and Dr. K. Swaminathan, Reader, Department of Biotechnology, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore for their encouragement and help in the completion of this study. My special thanks are due to Dr. K. Balasubramani, Reader, Vasavi College, Erode, Dr. E. Meera, Amrita Institute of Management, Mr. G. Paulraj and Ms. P. Shakuntala Mani, PSGR Krishnammal College for Women for their valuable suggestions and encouragement.

My thanks are due to the Librarians of Amrita Institute of Management, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore Stock Exchange, Karunya Institute of Technology, Institute for Financial Management and Research, Chennai.

My heartfelt gratitude goes to Mr. Gopa. Kambagiriswamy, Ms. R. Mohana Soundari, Mr. S. Ulaganathan, Ms. P. Anuradha and Mr. R. Vinodh, who helped me at various stages of data collection and analysis. My thanks are due to Mr. S. Kadhiravan for his help with statistical interpretation and Mr. A. Chandran for the editing work.

I am much indebted to my family for their kindness and continued encouragement. I owe them much for establishing a congenial environment that made it possible to complete this study.