ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In completing this thesis of mine, I owe debts of gratitude to very many. First of all I would like to express my deep sense of gratitude to my guide and supervisor Dr.V.Anbumani, without whose unstinted efforts and inspirational help, the study would not have become a reality and taken its present shape. Words are inadequate in expressing my respect for his scholarly advice at every stage of my work. I shall ever remain indebted to him.

I wish to place on record of my heartfelt thanks to Dr.R.S.Dhananjayan, Professor and Head, Department of Economics, Bharathiar University for his constant support and continuous encouragement.

I extend my deep sense of loyalty and gratitude to the Management of VLB Trust and to Dr.R.Joseph Xavier, The Principal, VLB Janakiammal College of Engineering and Technology, Coimbatore (where I am employed) for their benevolence in permitting me to take up this research work.

My thanks are in no small measure to my fellow researchers, Mr.V.Pradeep, Ms.T.Lingamurugeshwari, Mr.M.SaravanaKumar and Mr.U.Sreejith for their timely help and contributions.

The list is long. Some have contributed directly while many indirectly. This note of thanks is not exhaustive but I extend my heartfelt gratitude and thanks to all those who helped me in doing this research.