ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It is my pleasure to acknowledge the many individuals and institutions that have helped me in finishing this research. First of all, I express my sincere gratitude and thanks to my supervisor Prof. Vathsala Narasimhan for her cordial guidance, cooperation, invaluable suggestions, encouragement and support throughout my research work. I have been extremely lucky to have a supervisor who cared so much about me and my work.

I am very thankful to Dr. Arvind Susarla, the Head of the Centre for Regional Studies, University of Hyderabad, for his kind help and support. He has been very motivating and his intellectual interventions during presentations and meetings have certainly helped me in my research. I am also grateful to Prof. Sheela Prasad, the former Head of the Centre for Regional Studies and my Doctoral Committee member, who was very supportive and encouraging during these years.

Dr. Phanindra Goyari was my M.Phil supervisor and he continued as my Doctoral Committee Member, extending his valuable support in my research. I express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Vamsi Vakulabharanam. He introduced me to working with NSSO data and computations, without which this work would have been impossible.

I am deeply grateful to Prof. K. Nagaraj, former Professor at MIDS, Chennai, for his insightful interventions during the early days of my research. My thanks are due to all the teachers in the School of Economics for their teachings, encouragement and support during the course of my stay at University of Hyderabad. I also thank Dr. Vinoj Abraham of the Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram, for sending me the NSS data and Dr. K. Tharian George of Kerala State Rubber Board for his help and suggestions during my material collection. I also thank Dr. M.N.Rajesh and Amma who were always friendly and helpful.

The materials for this research were collected from various libraries and institutions in India. I express my thanks to the Librarian and Staff of CDS Library, Thiruvananthapuram; IGM Library, University of Hyderabad, CESS Library, Hyderabad; and NIRD Library, Hyderabad for their help and Library facilities. A special thanks to the staff at the Centre for Regional Studies for their help and technical support during the last five years of my association with the Centre.

A debt of gratitude must go to the Graduate Institute of Geneva for giving me the opportunity to present my research in the Global South Workshop held at the University of Ghana in August, 2012. I have benefitted from the discussions in the workshop. I am specially grateful to Prof. Ricardo Bocco, Prof. Jean-Luc Maurer and Prof. G. Balachandran of Graduate Institute, Geneva for their interests and valuable
suggestions to my research. I also fondly remember the friendship of Larissa, Chester, Rajya Laxmi, Vineth, Tushar, Ilk Tien, Anastasia, Nadah and all the participants of the Workshop. I also acknowledge the Indian Society of Labour Economics for giving me an opportunity to present a paper in 2011 Annual Conference, and the discussant Prof. Ritu Dewan for her comments.

A special word of thanks to V.J Varghese (Varkichayan) and Suma Chechi who had taken a special care and concern in my research. Varkichayan was always helpful, during my stay at CDS as well as in suggesting, arranging and sending research materials to me.

I had a wonderful set of people around me during my research at University of Hyderabad. Aneesh M. R and Kavya were helpful in arranging and sharing NSSO data. Yulia, Fируза, Swetlana, Prasanna made my stay in campus very memorable. Sabita was helpful as a neighbour friend in the hostel and later accommodated me in her room. Swathy and Suramya, my sisterly friends, were always helpful and I can never forget the way they arranged my stay during the finishing period of this thesis. I fondly remember the friendship and affection of Swapna Prabhu. Asha was a special friend, and I could take the freedom of a sister with her. Greeshma and Asha accompanied me from the very beginning of my PhD days. Mini, Regina and Monisha helped me in innumerable ways. Sandeep, Abin, Chandu, Vishnu, Ali Maash, Jauhar, Shinto, Joji and Abhilash deserve special mention. I also thank the support of all of my CRS friends who took interest in my research. Smitha and her family were helpful and supportive during my stay at NALSAR. Dr. Kannan deserves a special mention.

Thanks to my new friends at IIT Madras: Binitha Thampy, Emil, Santhosh, li’l Ameya, Shireen, Naveen and the two Ammas’, who showed their concern and interests during my days at Chennai.

Appa has been my constant motivator who always wanted me to aim high and reach higher. Amma was always there for me with her support. Mon, a wonderful brother!!! Ammachy, who raised me and was with me always, unfortunately could not live long to see me in this stage. I also fondly remember the care and concern of Mommy, Kunjachan, Suja, Joshy and the kiddos.

Finally, a big thanks to my husband Santhosh for standing all along with me, providing emotional and academic support, and more importantly, for putting up with all my tantrums during my writing stage.

Shalina Susan Mathew