ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am extremely grateful to my guide, Dr. M. P. Subramanian, M.Com., M.A., MBIM, (Lond.), FAAI (Lond.), Ph.D., Dean, Faculty of Commerce, Professor and Chairman, Department of Commerce and Business Administration, Mangalore University, Mangalore for his inspiring guidance. This study was made possible because of the great interest evinced in the subject by my Professor and the able assistance given by him. He encouraged me and guided me at all the stages of this research work. I find words inadequate to express my deep sense of gratitude for all the painstaking efforts he has undertaken from the formulation of the problem till its completion in the present shape.

I am thankful to Dr. M. S. Ganesan, M.Sc., Ph.D., Reader in Mathematics, A.V.V.M Sri Pushpam College, (Autonomous), Poondi, for helping me in preparing the graphs and diagrams.

I must express my sincere thanks to Thiru A. Umapathy of Uma Arts, Thanjavur, for the neat execution of the various charts.
I am extremely thankful to Topline Computers, Thanjavur, for the excellent typing of this thesis in a record time and Padma Printers, Thanjavur, for the beautiful printing and binding work of the thesis.

I am deeply indebted and grateful to the Master-Weavers, secretaries and special officers of the Silk Co-operatives of various centres in Tamil Nadu for making this study possible.

My thanks are due to the Director of Handlooms and Textiles, Madras, the General Manager, Co-optex, Madras, the Managing Director of TANSILK, Kanchipuram, the Director of Sericulture, Salem, the Additional Directors of the various regional offices and the Secretary of the Central Silk Board, Bangalore for their help in making available valuable information for the preparation of this thesis.

It is not possible to thank everyone who helped me in the completion of this study individually and hence I take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to one and all who have been associated with this study.

Above all, I am grateful to Lord Muruga, for His Blessings and Grace, in inspiring me to complete the work and I dedicate this humble piece of work to Lord Muruga.