ACKNOWLEDGMENT

“God's Ways are not our ways”. God who called me for a mission worked myriads of miracles in my life and I bow my head in gratitude for His Grace and Blessings always because of which this study was possible for me. I dedicate myself in humble thanksgiving to the Creator of the Universe.

This research project would not have been possible without the support of many people

Next to God stands my Mother, though illiterate is genius in inspiration, encouragement, empathy and prayer. She stood by me from the beginning like a rock, praying and encouraging in times of dark clouds, telling me there is a rainbow in everyone’s life and never get discouraged.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to my Research Guide, Dr. Jogan Shankar, who was abundantly helpful and offered invaluable assistance, support, encouragement and guidance. I appreciate his courage and willingness to guide me through this study, in the crucial moments of my days of study. He has been supporting me from the day I approached him before the beginning of my work and has been the source of inspiration and appreciation.

I wish to express my gratitude to Dr. Anita Ravishankar who encouraged me and supported me in my pursuit of professional education, for her help
through the years. Deepest gratitude is also due to the staff of Sociology Department, Dr.Govindaraju, Mrs. Harinakshi and Mrs. Leelavathi, who always assisted me at every moment of my work with their knowledge and expertise and for their generous contribution to complete my work.

My most beloved Aunt Miss. Florine is not to be forgotten. She stood by me in times of joys and sorrows, praying, encouraging and supporting. I remain ever grateful to her. Special thanks also to my friends Sr.Shanthi D’Mello SAP, Sr.Lisa D’Souza BS, Fr.Alphonse Fernandes, Prema D’Souza and Mrs.Jasmine Prnicpal, Fr.Muller School of Nursing, for their encouragement, appreciation, prayers and for being with me always.

I appreciate the guidance given by Prof.Cletus from Mysore University and his wife Mrs.Edith who helped me in the most difficult moment of my life to pursue my work without any hurdles.

I would like to appreciate and acknowledge the role of Staff of the University Library, Computer lab who always supported me through their timely assistance in getting the necessary material for my work.

Deepest gratitude is also due to the Provincials Rev.Sr.Monica Francis and Rev.Sr.Charlotte Sequeira who were directly or indirectly responsible for my work. I am grateful to my Superior Rev Sr.Hilda, and all my sisters who supported me through their prayers. My sincere thanks to Sr.Flavy and Sr.Philomena Serrao, Roshni Nilaya, who inspired me and helped me
whenever I was in need. Special thanks to Divya and Lithesh who assisted me in collecting the information.

My thanks to all the Homes for the Aged, Management and the staff, Superiors and the Managers who offered invaluable assistance by permitting me to do my survey in the Institutions and be with them. Special thanks to my Respondents without whom my work would be incomplete. They were not just respondents but part of my work and they have given me full support, encouragement and prayed for me till the end.

A special gratitude I offer to my financial donors, Swiss League of Catholic Women, Switzerland, for providing financial resources to complete my work. I express my love and gratitude to my beloved family members: brothers and sister with their families; for their understanding and endless love, through the duration of my studies.

I am very grateful to Mrs.Sucharita of Fr.Muller Hospital and College, for reviewing the manuscript in spite of her very busy schedule. She made several important suggestions which enhanced this manuscript. I would like to express my deepest appreciation to Miss.Santa and all in A1 Solutions, who provided the assistance to complete my work.