ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I assert with a humble heart my deepest gratitude to the Lord Almighty who has given me the strength, confidence and hope in accomplishing this thesis.

With a deep sense of gratitude, I gratefully acknowledge all the help offered by my guide Dr. D. Solomon Raj, M.A., M.Phil., M.Ed., PGDCA., Ph.D., Associate Professor cum Deputy Director, Centre for Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelvli, who has been the guiding light in this research. His instantaneous help to me at every stage of the research work has been a source of strength.

With swelling emotions of gratitude and indebtedness, I thank my co-guide Dr. S. Manickam, M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D., Professor of Economics, Registrar, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelvli, for suggesting this research topic, for his dexterous guidance, peerless assistance and prudent suggestions which helped me to improve upon my recording of the findings of this research coherently and the keen interest evinced throughout this research voyage and for enabling me to reach the destination.

I am grateful to the Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli for facilitating the completion of my research programme.

I express my gratitude to Dr. J. Sacratees, Assistant Professor and Head (in-charge), Department of Economics, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli and Dr. C. Jestina Jeyakumari, Assistant Professor, Department of
Economics, Dr.T.Helan, Assistant Professor, Department of Business Administration (Finance), Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli, for their valuable suggestions and enthusiasm. I also thank all the members of the Department of Economics, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli.

I wish to place on record my sincere thanks to Rt.Rev.Dr.J.J.Christadoss, Bishop in Tirunelveli Diocese for his sympathy, permission and encouragement which helped me to complete my research work.

I should specially thank Dr.D.Seenikumar Selvanayagam, Secretary and Correspondent and Dr.Mrs.Ida P. Joseph, Principal, St.John’s College, Palayamkottai for their encouragement and valuable assistance.

I extend my unlimited appreciation and thanks to Mr.P.Jeyesekaran Devadoss, Associate Professor of Economics, St.John’s College, Palayamkottai for his valuable help and sustained interest in completing this thesis. I also thank all the members of the Department of Economics, St.John’s College, Palayamkottai.

I am greatly indebted to Dr.J.Joseph Christadoss, The Principal, Pope’s College, Sawyerpuram for having gone through the dissertation patiently and offered valuable suggestions. My hearty thanks are due to Dr.D.Jery Josephine, Professor and Head, Department of Economics, Pope’s College, Sawyerpuram for her valuable help. I also thank Dr.J.Jeyasingh, Dr.D.Jeyasingh, Dr.R.Immanuel, Dr.R.Selvakumar, Dr.S.Chandrasehar, Dr.S.Henry Pandian, Dr.(Mrs.) J.Jesudiyal Salome and Mr.I.Ponnumamy of the Department of
Economics, Dr.J.Arulraj Daniel and Dr.A.Selvakumar of the Department of Commerce, Pope’s College, Sawayerpuram, Dr.C.Ravi Samuel Raj of the Department of Chemistry, Pope’s College, Sawayerpuram, Dr.P.DuraiPalam Thanasingh, Professor and Head, Department of Advanced Zoology and Biotechnology, Pope’s College, Sawayerpuram for their valuable guidance and encouragement.

I also express my sincere gratitude to Dr.V.Elangovan, Associate Professor in Economics, APSA.College, Tiruppattur for his timely help and guidance in moulding this work in a successful manner.

My sincere thanks are due to Dr.T.Ananda Veda and Dr.T.Chibi Chelliah, Former Heads, Department of Economics, Pope’s College, Sawayerpuram, Dr.V.Baskar Rajapaul, Professor and Head, Department of Commerce, Nazareth Margoschis College for their support and encouragement in completing my research work successfully.

I also thank the Librarians of Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai, Madras University, Chennai, Gandhigram Rural University, Gandhigram, Centre for Development Studies (CDS), Trivandrum, Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS), Chennai and the Director, Indian Bureau of Mines, Chennai.

I am ever grateful to my wife Mrs.J.Josephine Jeya, M.A., M. Phil., who kindled the interest in me to undertake research, who stood with me during the demanding hours of this research and my children Miss.Abisha Hannah,
Miss. Beryl Gifty and Master. Abishak Jebasingh for their overwhelming support in finishing this piece of research.

I am also grateful to Jeba Computers, Palayamkottai for the neat typing of this dissertation.

V. DURAI SINGH