ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am indebted in depth of "GOD ALMIGHTY" for the abundance of blessings that he showers upon me. I bow my head before the mighty power of his eternal love & grace and for giving me the courage and strength to pursue this endeavor to completion.

I extend my profound and unbounded gratitude to my guide, Dr. S. KAMINI, Retd. Principal, Govt. College for Women, Thiruvananthapuram, for her adroit guidance, friendly approach, unfailing co-operation and generous help evidenced throughout the course of my study and genuine interest during the preparation of the thesis. Also I place my sincere thanks for her creative criticism and team spirit generated in me. This work would not have been possible without her help and support.

I extend my sincere gratitude to Dr. P. Saraswthy, Retd. Associate Director of Research, Kerala Agricultural University, for her expert opinion and help rendered while doing statistical analysis and also to Dr. Vijayaraghava Kumar, Professor, Department of Agricultural Statistics for the help rendered by him.

I owe my special thanks to Sri. C.E. Ajithkumar, Programmer of the Department of Agricultural Extension for his expert opinion about the transformation of data, and for the help he rendered while doing statistical analysis.

My heartfelt thanks are due to Dr. C. Bhaskaran, Professor, Dr. R. Prakash, Professor, Dr. Seema, Professor, and other beloved teachers of the Department of Agricultural Extension for their valuable suggestions, expert advice, co-operation and friendly nature.

I take this opportunity to record my indebtedness to Mr. Iyengar, Assistant Director, Kerala State Handloom Development Corporation, Mr. Ravi, Proprietor,
Indian Dyes and Chemicals, Balaramapuram, who imparted valuable information regarding the handlooms in Thiruvananthapuram district for elaborate survey.

I would like to place special thanks to Mr. George Thomas, Assistant Director, Kerala State Handloom Development Corporation, Mr. Sreedhararan, Handloom Weavers Consortium, Kannur, members and officials of Handloom Development Corporation for their wholehearted help and moral support at various stages of investigation, and the help rendered by them.

Words cannot express my gratitude to Mr. T.G.Prabhakaran, Welfare Officer (Retd), Office of the Principal Accountant General(Audit), Kerala who have sacrificed much and effort taken for timely submission.

My profound gratitude is placed on record to beloved teachers and friends of Department of Home Science, College of Agriculture, Vellayani, for their genuine concern and moral support extended to me.

I have intense pleasure in expressing my heartfelt thankfulness, gratitude and obligations to my friend Dr. Kamala Veni, and Dr. B. Prasanna Kumari, Associate Professor, Department of Home Science, College of Agriculture, Vellayani, Thiruvananthapuram, who had offered valuable help during the course of investigation.

I also wish to place on record my obligations to the Librarians of Kerala University, Centre for Development Studies, Agricultural University, University campus, Karyavattom, Institute of Management in Government (IMG), for providing all the facilities for reference. The facilities provided by the Kerala University Library for the entire duration of the study are specially acknowledged.

I cherish with great pleasure the concern showed by my beloved husband T.K. Joseph, my children Neenu Achamma Joseph and Nibin Oommen Joseph, my mother Mrs. Alice John and many more caring persons for their high expectations about me and the love, help and support provided to pursue this endeavor.

Rari John.K.