ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I believe that God is with me in all the tasks I am entrusted with, and my faith is strengthened with the completion of this thesis work, throughout which, I was motivated, corrected, and guided by the God’s Holy Spirit. “The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him; and I am helped. My heart leaped for joy and I will give thanks to Him in Song” (Psalm 28:7)

I express my heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Mahajan P. Mani, my guide and mentor for this thesis, for being kind enough to accommodate me in the academic fraternity of his research scholars, for being supportive enough to share his professional knowledge and expertise in framing the thesis, and especially for being patient enough to correct my ignorance both in academics and in life in general. He trained me in critical thinking and taught me how to ask a relevant question and how to think beyond the definitions.

The School of Gandhian Thought & Development Studies offered the suitable atmosphere and ambience in the initial years of my research, with intellectual discussions among research scholars, course work related paper presentations, and seminars and workshops. For this great learning experience I sincerely thank Dr. M.S John, Dr. Roy C. Mathew, all other teaching staff, Librarian, the non-teaching staff and especially my batch mates and all other research scholars.

My sincere thanks to the NGO officials and staff of the health NGOs who took part in the study. The knowledge and experience shared by them have been detrimental in the research process. Special thanks to Dr. V.P Gangadharan (Cochin Cancer Society), Dr. Jose Chacko Periapuram (Heartcare Foundation), Mr. Xavier Pothempilly (Paripalana), Mr. Vasanth Shenoy (SORT), Sr.Aashritha (Kanivu),
Mrs. Stella Stephen(Maithri), Mr. Babu Varghese(ARDSI) Mr. Saju V. Itty (Kerala Voluntary Health Associations), and Mr. K.M Nair (Kochi Health Mission), who extended great support to my study. In particular I am grateful to Mr. Alok Mukopadhyay, the CEO of Voluntary Health Association of India, New Delhi who gave me a broader understanding about the research area through his fast email replies and telephone conversations and who sent me the relevant articles and publications that were not accessible to me in any other way.

Words are not enough to express my happiness and thanks to my family. My parents, in-laws, siblings and relatives who always wished to see the best from me, shared all my family related responsibilities so that I can spend more time on the thesis. Love to my Husband without whom this thesis would never have been possible. He never let me give up, and was always around with great ideas, remarkable patience and constant motivation. Special thanks to my son, Jonathan, who suffered all my temper tantrums during the thesis writing, and encouraged me with his cute smiles.

Brinta Nelson