ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I offer my thanks and praise to the LORD JESUS CHRIST who has been my source of strength in completion of this project. I wish to place on record, my gratitude and immense heartfelt thanks to Dr. A. GUNASEKARAN, Reader and Head, Post Graduate and Research Department of Economics, Sir Theagaraya College, Chennai – 21 who amidst his pressing administrative, research and teaching activities, always made it convenient to offer guidance, constructive criticism, untiring help and unhesitating support at all times throughout the study period.

I thank Dr. S. SAMBAMOORTHY, Principal, Sir Theagaraya College, Chennai-21, for allowing me to pursue my research work in the college. I would like to thank the faculty member of Department of Economics, Sir Theagaraya College, Chennai-21 for their support.

I am grateful to the Management, Anna Adarsh College for Women, Chennai-40 for permitting me to carry out the research study on a part-time basis. My special thanks to Principal Dr. UMA KUMARI SHARMA, M.A., M.A., B.Ed., Ph.D., Anna Adarsh College for Women, Chennai – 40 for her encouragement throughout my research work.

I am indebted to Dr. R. THANDAVAN, Professor and Head, Anna Centre for Public Affairs, University of Madras, Chennai-5 and, Dr. S. THIRUNAVUKKARASU Reader in Economics, RKM Vivekananda College, Chennai-4 for their immense help in preparation of the research. Their constant support and suggestions was the source of inspiration in completion of my thesis.
I am extremely grateful to Mr.C.UMASHANKAR, I.A.S., former Collector, Tiruvarur District, who deserves heartfelt gratitude for helping me in various ways, despite his preoccupation. I wish to thank Mr.KALIAPERUMAL, Village Administrative Officer, Tiruvarur and Mr.NAMACHIVAYAM for enabling me to collect the necessary data.

I am also indebted to Mr.MAHESAN KASIRAJAN, DS to Governor of Tamil Nadu, for the efforts taken by him in doing the proof reading of the entire thesis. I thank Mr.NARSHIMAIAH, Librarian of the Indian Institute of management, Bangalore, for wilfully providing me with the latest books and all materials relevant to my topic.

My academic colleagues Head of the Department and faculty members of Department of Commerce and friends Dr.SHERLINE LAWRENCE and Mrs.SUSAN SANKAR in Anna Adarsh College for Women deserve my appreciation for extending to me their wholehearted co-operation and valuable suggestions.

I am beholden to my parent and other family members for their blessing and prayers. My husband Mr.R.RAVI SANKAR and children R.PRANESH DARJUS and R.JACINTH SAHANA deserve special acknowledgement for willingly making sacrifices necessary for me to enable me to work for realising one of the major ambition of my mother Mrs.M.VASANTHA, without their support this task would not have been possible.

Finally, I express my thanks to Mr.P.SRIKANTH who cheerfully typed the entire thesis and then did the needful corrections.

(M.ANITA)