Acknowledgement

I bow my head and heart with all reverence to the Lord Almighty for his blessings and kindness for providing me the strength to endure all hardships during the years of the study.

It gives me immense pleasure to place my deep sense of indebtedness and gratitude to Dr. Martin Patrick, Research Supervisor, Research Centre in Economics, Maharaja’s College, Ernakulam under whose expert guidance and excellent supervision, this work has taken its present shape and form. He has been most gracious with his support, timely reminders, constant and unstinted encouragement, keen interest, constructive criticisms and painstaking reading of the thesis many times, for shaping and correcting the thesis. Words are insufficient to thank him.

I also express my deep sense of gratitude to Dr. Aswathy.N.A, Senior Scientist (CMFRI) for the timely help, corrections and her professional guidance during the years of my study.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to

Dr. Shyam Salim, (CMFRI), for the help given to me. I also express my sincere thanks to Dr. Muraleedharan, (Research Supervisor, Department of Economics, Maharaja’s College), for his encouragement, suggestions and help.

I am deeply indebted to Dr. (Fr). Antony Paul, (visiting faculty C.D.S, Thiruvananthapuram), for his constant encouragement and suggestions during the process of my study.
My sincere thanks are due to all those who have extended help and support like Sr. Percy C.T.C, retired Principal and faculty of the Department of English, St. Xavier’s College, Aluva, who took the pain to go through the thesis to correct the language of the thesis.

I remember with mixed feelings of gratitude and love, all those who have supported me during the data collection especially Mr. Charles Joseph, the President of Deep Boat Operator’s Association (Neendakara – Shakthikulangara), Mr. Tomy from Munambam, Mr. Jose from CMFRI and the executives of Deep Sea Boat Owners Associations in Azhikode, Munambam, Beypore and Kannur.

I take this opportunity to thank the head of the department of economics and the staff in Maharaja’s College, Ernakulam, for all the help and support extended to me during the years of my study.

Last but not the least my heartfelt gratitude to my husband who supported me all through the years of the study, my parents who walked with me in prayer and my sister who accompanied me throughout the days of data collection.

I also remember my youngest sister who left this world during the years of my study and who encouraged me a lot to complete the study.

The litany can go on unending. I have to wind up by once again expressing my deep sense of love and gratitude to all those who have rendered their service, help and support.