ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The researcher wishes to place on record her profound indebtedness to all those who have contributed directly and indirectly to make the study a success.

First and foremost, I would like to express my sincere feelings of gratitude and indebtedness towards my Research Guide, Dr. Thomas T. Valamparampil, Reader and Head, Department of Zoology, St. Berchmans College, Changanassery, Kerala, under whose inspiring guidance, constant motivation and supervision, this research work was made possible. I bow my head before his versatile qualities: extra-ordinary brilliance, excellence and patience.

The investigator wishes to express her gratitude to Dr. Stephen Mathews, Principal, St. Berchmans College, Changanassery, Kerala, for having rendered the administrative support and permitted to utilize the infrastructure facilities of the institution in the conduct of the study.

I wish to place on record my heart-felt gratitude to Dr. John T. Kocheril, Selection Grade Lecturer, Department of Zoology, St. Berchmans College, Changanassery, who stood the main pillar from the time of conception of the idea of this research work. The thought-provoking and inspiring support he extended throughout the course of study had in fact paved the stepping stones towards the path of this work, which he added further at all stages of the study.

I owe a deep sense of gratitude to Dr. P. Sivasankara Pillai, the Director of Medical Education, Kerala (Rtd), for having granted me the permission to carry out the research on part-time basis and to Dr. E.R. Indiradevi, Professor and Head (Rtd), Department of Community Medicine, Government Medical college, Kottayam, for she had permitted me to make use of department facilities in carrying out the study.
Thanks are also due to Dr. K. Ushadevi, Professor and Head (Rtd), Department of Community Medicine, Government Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram and Former Coordinator of State Prevention of Epidemics and Infectious Diseases Cell, Medical College Hospital, Thiruvananthapuram, for the timely support and valuable advices she had given even from the very beginning of the study.

I would like to express my feel of extreme gratitude to Dr. Kumari Jayageetha P.B., Assistant Professor in Demography and Statistics, Department of Community Medicine, Government Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram, who always remained an architect to me from the time of planning the design of the present research work. She had supported me in all stages of the work, spending her valuable time in the statistical analysis and interpretation on the observations of the study.

I owe a deep sense of gratitude to Dr. P. B. Sudev, Documentalist, Population Research Centre (PRC), University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram, who helped me with the Boundless services of doing the computer-assisted statistical analysis of the data of the present study which made me possible to depict the observations.

Thanks are also due to Dr. Remadevi S, Associate Professor in Medico-Sociology (Rtd), Department of Community Medicine, Government Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram for her timely advice, suggestions and help in the organization of this thesis.

I acknowledge my feel of thankfulness to Dr. A. Ambikadevi Amma, Professor and Head (Rtd), Department of Community Medicine, Government Medical College, Kottayam, Dr. K. Leelamoni, Professor and Head (Rtd), Dr. Jeesha C. Haran, Professor and Head (Rtd), and Dr. Leela Ittyamma, Professor and Head (Rtd), of the Department of Community Medicine, Government Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram, for all of them had motivated and supported me throughout this endeavor of research. I also thank Dr. K. Vijayakumar, Professor and Head of the Department of Community Medicine, Government Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram, for his constant inspiration and unbounded help in the conduct of this research work.
It would have been a total omission if I had had not acknowledged the Director, Meteorological Centre, Thiruvananthapuram, India Meteorological Department, Government of India, for providing the data on meteorological factors of the Study districts, and the Director of Health Services, Government of Kerala for providing the data related to mosquito-borne diseases occurred in the state.

Lastly, but not the least, I would like to place on record my whole-hearted indebtedness to my husband and children for their constant moral and physical support during each stage of the present research work, especially in organizing and carrying out the data collection part of this research work and the entire DTP work of the thesis without whom this task of research would not have completed.

Above all, I thank the Almighty that, He made me do this venture through the helping hands of all I have acknowledged.

November, 2009                      SUDHARMINI. S