ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It is my sincere duty to acknowledge the individuals and institutions for the help I received during my research work. Without their timely help it would not have been possible for me to complete in time. At the outset, I am deeply indebted to Dr. A. Sugirtha Rani M.A., Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Periyar University, Salem, and my thesis supervisor for her consistent encouragement, instilling knowledge and guidance all through the research work. I thank her gratefully for the valuable suggestions and the motivation she imbedded towards my research endeavour.

I take an opportunity to thank our former Vice-Chancellor Dr. T. Balakrishnan, present Vice – Chancellor, Dr. M. Thangaraju and other officials in the University for having offered University Research Fellowship. Without the financial support received from the University it would not possible to complete the thesis. I place on the record of gratitude to them.

I also express my heartfelt thanks to Dr. S. Rajendran, Professor and Head, Department of Economics, Periyar University, Salem, for inculcating values, attributes and for his constructive feedback regarding my research work.

I am grateful to all teachers, Mr. V. Vaithianathan, Dr. A. Saravanadurai, and Dr. D. Janagam Assistant Professors in the Department of Economics, Periyar University, Salem. Many useful interactions with them improved me to sharpen my academic thinking.
I am grateful to my predecessor and M.Phil., guide Dr. D. Bose, Associate Professor in the Department of Economics, Ayya Nadar Janaki Ammal College, Sivakasi, for his constant support. I also wish to thank Dr. S. Geetha Rani, Associate Professor, NUEPA, New Delhi, and Mr. Selvaraj whose suggestions and comments are very useful for the accomplishment of my thesis.

I would like to thank my academic friends Dr. V. Suganthi and Mrs. P.B. Rukmani for their timely help during my data collection period which makes data enumeration process easy.

I express hearty thanks to my friends P.S. Sivakkumar, S. Sagathevan and M. Rameshkumar (URFs), V. Chinnasamy, R. Arithar, M. Gopalakrishnan, L. Guruprasath, A. Mohammed Mustafa, A. David Stephen, K. Krishnakumar, M. Muthukumar, P. Sathishkumar, P. Satheswaran, S. Nithya, P. Uma devi and B. Hajara Parveen for their constant encouragement and continued support to my research work.

I am grateful to Ayya Nadar Janaki Ammal College (Autonomous), Sivakasi and the Staff members of the Department of Economics for their kind help and proper suggestions. In fact, this helps me to submit in the stipulated time.

I have visited number of research institutes and universities in order to learn research methodology, application of quantitative techniques in social science research and refer research materials. Notable among them are: National University for Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA), New Delhi, Indira Gandhi Institute for Developmental Research (IGIDR), Mumbai, Council for Social Development (CSD), Hyderabad, Centre for Social Studies (CSS), Surat, National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT), New Delhi,
Madhya Pradesh Institute for Social Science Research, Ujjain, Madurai
Kamaraj University, Madurai and Bharathiar University, Coimbatore. Hence I
would like to thank the Heads, eminent researchers and the Librarians of these
institutions as well.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the Heads of various educational
institutions such as Government Arts college, Salem, Government College of
Engineering, Salem, Mohan Kumaramangalam Government Medical College,
Salem, Periyar University College of Arts and Science (PRUCAS), Mettur Dam,
The Central Law College, Salem, Sri Sarada College for Women, Salem, Sona
College of Technology, Salem, Vinayaka Mission’s Kiruponanda Varyiar
Medical College, Salem and Vysya College, Salem for having permitted to collect
information from students and providing necessary arrangements. And I am grateful
to the sample students belong to these institutions for rendering their co-operation
during the collection of data.

All the staff members in my university library were helped in supplying
reference materials; this has helped me to refer many reference documents.
I have extensively referred a number of reference documents in my department
library. In fact this helped to avoid the quest for knowledge in distant places. I owe
special thanks to all of them.

Next I thank Mr. R. Kulanthaivel, Mr. N. Saravanan and Mr. S. Selvam
non- teaching staff, who helped me in many ways during my research work in the
department.

(R. KALIRAJAN)
Dedicated to
My Beloved Parents
Mr. K. Rajasekaran and Mrs. R. Malliga Devi