ACKNOWLEDGMENT

At the outset, I would like to express my deep gratitude to the Centre for Development Studies and to the Government of India for giving me the opportunity to pursue the doctoral programme. I remain grateful to my supervisors Dr. N. Shanta and Dr. P. Mohanan Pillai for the dedication and patience with which they guided me at every stage and encouraged me to complete this study.

Dr K. Pushpangadan, Dr. Udaya Mishra, Dr. N. Vijayamohanan Pillai, Dr. M. Suresh Babu, Dr. M. Parmeshwaran, Dr Abdul Azeez Erumban and Dr Anoop Bhandari, were generous with their advice and help on various methodological aspects. I am indeed grateful to them.

I am grateful to Dr K.P Kannan, Dr K. Narayanan Nair, and Dr K.J Joseph for their good wishes and well meaning concern for the completion of my work. I greatly benefited from the advice and comments that I received from Dr Paul Kattuman.

I would also like to thank Mr Soman Nair, Mr. A.P. Phil Roy, the CDS administrative staff, Mr. Anil Kumar and the library staff for their generous help during my stay at the Centre. Through the course of this journey, there were fellow students and friends whose help, advice and company was invaluable. I am grateful to all of them.

I greatly benefited from my interactions with late Prof. K.K. Subramanian through whom I gained valuable insights on subjects that go beyond this study. The hospitality of Mrs. Padma Subramanian at their residence remains etched in my memory. I shall always cherish the friendship and the hospitality of Udaya Mishra, Mala and Ashwin.

Needless to say, I alone remain responsible for the errors and omissions and the views expressed in the study which should in no way be attributed to any of the persons or organizations mentioned here.

Finally, it was the support of my wife Sudha, her mother Smt Kalyani Madhavan, Mukund and Revathi that ensured that I brought this endeavour to a conclusion.

Thiruvanananthapuram, M.R. Anand
November 2010