ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The scholarly guidance, valuable and intellectual suggestions, inspiring encouragement and timely supply of needful materials, obtained from different persons helped me a lot to complete the research work successfully. So, it is my duty to acknowledge their help with grateful thanks.

I convey my deep sense of gratitude to my esteemed research guide Dr. S. Maria John M.Com., M.B.A., B.Ed., PGDCA., Ph.D., Associate Professor, Post Graduate and Research Department of Commerce, Cardamom Planters' Association College, Bodinayakanur, Theni District, Tamil Nadu for the identification of the area of research, his valuable guidance, suggestions and encouragement given throughout the study.

I immensely thank Dr. M. Edwin Gnanadhas, M.Com., M.Phil., Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Commerce, Scott Christian College Nagercoil, Kanyakumari District for helping me as a co-guide throughout the work and for enriching my knowledge in the research area.

I share my happiness with Dr. N. Paul Raj M.A, M.Phil., Ph.D., Associate Professor of Economics, Government Arts College, Udagamandalam, Nilgiris District and thank him a lot for his personal help in collecting various information required for this study.

I express my heartfelt gratitude to Dr. R. Wilson M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D., Associate Professor of English, St Jude’s College, Thoothoor, Kanyakumari District for having gone through this work and for rendering suggestions. I remember with gratitude the help rendered by Dr. R. Mohan Kumar M.Com., M.Phil., Ph.D., Professor and Head, Department of Management Studies, Sree Krishna College of Engineering, Panapakkam, Chennai.
I am grateful to the Principal Dr. S. Dawn Dharma Roy, M.Sc., M.Phil., Ph.D., the Correspondent Mr. S Justin Jasper Dhas B.A., B. L, and the Librarian Mr. Paulson M.A., M. L.I.Sc., M.Phil., of N.M Christian College, Marthandam, Kanyakumari District for their constant support and encouragement that helped me expedite the research work.

I am indebted and dedicate this to the noble memory of my beloved father (Late) Sri. V. Rajamony and my brother (Late) Adv. R. Rengitsingh. I remember with gratitude the selfless service rendered at every stage of the work by my mother Mrs. Palammal and my brothers Mr. R. Austin Raj, M.A., M.Phil., Chairman, R.P.A College of Education, MamoottuKadai, Marthandam, Dr. R. Kalasan M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D., Associate Professor (Rtd.), PMT College, Melanelithanallur, Thirunelvali District and Mr. R. Samrose, Scientist, New Jersy, U.S.A., who have been the well wishers for my progress and development.

I convey my sincere thanks to Mr. V. Sri Ram, Librarian, Centre for Development Studies, Mrs. Sobha, Librarian, State Central Library, Mr. Surya Prakash, University Library, Tirvandrum, Mr. G. Ramesh, Library Assistant, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunvelveli, Mr. Singarayan, Marxist Communist Party of India, Kuzhithurai, Mr. J. Deva balan, Statistical Officer, Department of Economics and Statistics, and Director, District Industries Centre, Nagercoil for their timely help and suggestions that not only saved my time and energy, but also enriched the content of the study.

I am very much grateful to Mr. C. Austin Prabhu, Mr. C. Shajin Prabhu, M.E., and Mr. Baiju. M.Com., M.Phil., of Cyber Communications, Marthandam, for their valuable and timely assistance in computation work and for the excellent layout of this thesis.

(R. FRANCIS)