ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The researcher is greatly indebted and acknowledges with abundant thanks to the research supervisor Dr. N.D. Mani, Reader and Head of the Department of Rural Development for his constant guidance and the interest he evinced in throughout the course.

The researcher wishes to register his sense of gratitude to the authorities of Gandhigram Rural Institute (Deemed University), Gandhigram for having accorded him with profound opportunity to pursue his research work. The researcher was greatly aided by number of learned scholars based at different of universities, NGO’s and research institutes who were willing to discuss about this research and add their insights and injecting new ideas. These includes National Institute for Rural Development, Hyderabad, Institute for Development Studies, Nairobi University, Kenya, Tamilnadu State Institute of Rural Development, Centre for Development Studies, Trivandram.

Special thanks are due to Br.P. Arumukham. (Rtd., Professor & Head), Department of Rural Development, GRI, Gandhigram for his invaluable support and directions for the successful of the work. The researcher want to express his indebtedness to Dr. N.Lalitka, Reader, Department of Rural Development and to Dr. Anandharaj Kumar, Senior Lecturer, Department of Rural Development for their encouragement and concern exhibited in the course of completing this research. The researcher thanks Dr. C. Ramanujam, Chief Population Research Centre and Director in-charge, Institute of Rural Health and Family Welfare Trust, Ambathurai, for his support on Statistical Packages for this research.
Thanks are also due to Faculty members of Geo-informatics, Department of Rural Development, Gandhigram Rural Institute, Gandhigram. The Researcher is indebted to Mrs. S. Saktfai, Senior Lecturer, Department of Sociology, Queen Mary’s College, Chennai for her prayers and data collection.

Thanks are also due to Mr. R. Elango and Mr. M. Senapathi for their efforts towards data collections from different villages, Mr. P. Gubendran and Mr. S. Velanganni for data processing.

The Researcher extends his heartfelt thanks to Dr. (Mrs) N. Saraswathi, Professor and Head, Department of Rural Studies, School of Economic, Madurai Kamaraj University, the member of the Doctoral Committee for her valuable suggestions.

The researcher appreciates the assistance offered by Dr. M. A. Jayarajm, Professor, Faculty of English and Foreign Languages, Gandhigram Rural Institute, Gandhigram for reviewing and enriching the manuscript.

The researcher expresses special thanks and profound respect to Br. Samwel Kakuko Lopoyetum, Senior Post Doctoral Research Fellow, Department of Cooperation, Gandhigram Rural Institute, Gandhigram for his forthright comments, issue based criticisms and sustained interest in my research work and for my well being in India at large.

The researcher, posthumously express heartfelt gratitude and owes honest thanks to his late Grandfather, Mr. Nahashan Araka for instilling high moral values and spiritual guidance.

The researcher wishes to express his appreciation and gratitude to his beloved parents, his father James Moseti Okoyo and his Mum Jane Moraa Okoyo who have been patient and supportive both morally and financially throughout his study in India. The researcher is grateful to his brothers and sisters for their constant prayers and encouragement.
Special mention must be made of the cooperation of the authorities of the DRDA, BDO, DMSSS and the respondents from Different villages of Dindigul District who furnished data/information pertaining to the research work. To crown it all, the researcher is very grateful to the Indian council for Social Science Research (ICSSR) Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, New Delhi, for rendering a Centrally Administered Financial Research Fellowship during the course of the research period.