ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to place on record my deep sense of indebtedness and gratitude to my research guide Dr. M.A. Sudhir, Professor and Head, Department of Applied Research, for his guidance, advice, timely motivation and creative suggestions to carryout and complete this doctoral study.

I am sincerely thankful to Dr. S. Kesavan, Professor, Department of Applied Research, Gandhigram Rural Institute, Gandhigram for continuous encouragement to complete this work.

I am grateful to N. Saraswathy, Professor, Department of Rural Development, School of Economics, Madurai Kamaraj University, the external member of my Doctoral Committee for the expertise extended in designing research and able assistance at the various of the conduct of the study. I am thankful to Prof. Kamalamma, Dr. Boraian, M.P., Dr. Rajendran, T., of Gandhigram Rural Institute for their help and constructive suggestions to improve the quality of the thesis.

The authorities of the Gandhigram Rural Institute also helped me to undertake this study in the service villages of Gandhigram and I place my sincere gratitude.
I place my appreciation to all my colleagues in the Department of Applied Research and Rural Extension & Evaluation cell for their kind assistance and encouragement throughout the work.

It is my duty to thank the staffs of the Mr. G. Ramachandran, Library, Gandhigram Rural Institute for making available the library resources.

I express my sincere thanks and gratitude to my mother Smt. K. Alagammal, my children S. Akila Rubika Priya and S. Shailaja, my husband A. Stalin, brother K. Thangaraj and sister K. Maheswari for their support, encouragement & patience during the long period of my study. I do extend my sincere thanks to the respondents, TINP staff members, SHG members who spared their precious time to carry out my research work.

I am thankful to Dr. M. A. Jeyaraju, Professor, Faculty of English and Foreign Languages, Gandhigram Rural Institute for correcting the language Mrs. A. Mumtaj, Mr. P. Karthikeyan and Mr. Soundara Pandi need special mention for technical help and computer assistance reordered during the preparation of the research report.

Pappathi K.