Acknowledgement

Let me first bow down to God Almighty for giving me the strength and opportunity to pursue my studies and for leading me all through with guidance and divine protection and for all the blessings bestowed on me to accomplish this research work.

Words are inadequate to express my indebtedness and sense of gratitude to my research guide, Dr. Roy C Mathew, School of Gandhian Thought and Development Studies, Mahatma Gandhi University, I remember with gratitude the help rendered in choosing the topic, his paternal guidance throughout my efforts, his constant inspiration and support in completing this thesis, I discern in him divine intervention to strengthen a feeble hand to accomplish a difficult task.

I would also like to thank Dr. John, Director, School of Gandhian Thought and Development Studies, Mahatma Gandhi University for his valuable advice from time to time.

With a deep sense of gratitude, I thank Dr. Nirmala Devi, Professor and Director, SGTDS; Dr M. Maharajan former Director, SGTDS; Dr. M Mahajan, SGTDS, Dr Sandhya Devi and esteemed Mr. Joseph, for providing me with the necessary help in the successful completion of this work. All the office staff of School of Gandhian Thought and Development Studies, Mahatma Gandhi University

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Dr. H Sadasivan Pillai, Principal, DB College, Keezhoor and the Management of Travancore Devasom Board College.

Thanks are due to the Librarians of Centre of Development Studies, Trivandrum, Centre of Management, Trivandrum, Kerala University Library, M G University Library, SGTDS Library, DB College Library for granting me access to the library facilities.
A galaxy of experts, with their invaluable knowledge and wide experience in the field of tourism – its issues, challenges has contributed to this endeavor in a big way. Many other people have helped me in with its formidable collection of the data and among them a few memorable ones are the officers and staff of the Department of Tourism, the two DTPC centers Ernakulam and Allapuzha I thank them for their help, especially for supplying the relevant data for the study.

I am also indebted to the Panchayath Secretaries, of the four study areas: Kuttanadu, Kumbalangi, Kuttampuzha and Cherai.

I would like to thank retired Prof Antony, of Albert’s College, Ernakulam for carefully editing the thesis.

Thanks are due to my Parents but for whose constant encouragement this venture would not have been fructified. If I fail to register my sincere gratitude to my husband Mr. Dipin and our beloved daughter, Shivani Dipin all along the course of my ambitions aspiration. I would, indeed, be guilty of monstrous ingratitude.

BINDU NAIR