ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This thesis is the result of the work carried out under the guidance and supervision of Dr. A. Meenakshisundararajan, M.A., M.L.S., C.J., Ph.D., Reader, Post Graduate and Research Centre in Economics, S.T. Hindu College, Nagercoil, to whom a great debt of gratitude is owed. I also gratefully remember him for his valuable sustained guidance, inspiring encouragement throughout this work. His patient perusal of the manuscript, stimulating hints and suggestions have been mainly responsible for shaping my thinking into a thesis. No words can adequately express my gratitude to him.

I wish to record my deep sense of gratitude to my co-guide Dr. J. Jeya Balaji, M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D., Professor and Head, Post Graduate and Research Centre in Economics, Scott Christian College, Nagercoil for his constructive criticism and expert advice.

I wish to express a deep sense of gratitude to Dr. D. Velappan, former Principal, S.T. Hindu College, Nagercoil for his words of encouragement and valuable suggestions to complete my research work.

I place on record my sense of gratitude to the University Grants Commission, for providing me with an opportunity to pursue my research under FDP IX Plan Period. I express my sincere thanks to the Secretaries Mr. V. Thiraviam and Mr. P. Arumugam Pillai, and the Principals Dr. V. Krishnan and Dr. B. Nagalingom Pillai of S.T. Hindu College, Nagercoil.
for permitting me to be benefited from the FDP programme during August 2001 -

My sincere thanks are also due to Dr. J.K. Stephen, Head, Post Graduate
Department of Economics and Research Centre, S.T. Hindu College, Nagercoil
for his wholehearted cooperation and assistance extended to complete this
thesis.

I owe my gratitude to Dr. T. Ramachandran, Head, Department of
Economics, Sivanthi Aditanar College, Pillayarpuram, Prof. K. Joseph Raj
and Mr. G. Ramachandra Prasad, Superintendent, of S.T. Hindu College,
Nagercoil for their help at various stages to complete this thesis.

I owe my greatest debt to Prof. S. Prabhakaran, Lecturer in English,
S.T. Hindu College, Nagercoil for the painstaking proof reading of the thesis.

I thank sincerely to my friends Prof. C.A. Sham Shankar,
Prof. K.V. Soundararaja, and Dr. T.M. Padmanabhan of S.T. Hindu College,
Nagercoil, for their encouragement in completion of the work. I extend my
thanks to all my colleagues in the Department of Economics, S.T. Hindu College,
Nagercoil for their assistance and loving support.

I express my sincere thanks to Mr. S. Velu, V.S.S. Computer Centre,
Parakkai, Mr. Gilbert, Bits Computer Centre, Nagercoil and Mr. Cheralathan,
Big Byte Computer Centre, Eathamozhi for their care and interest in the neat and
prompt execution of this work.
I am indebted to Mr. V.A. Sukumar, Lead District Manager, Lead District Office, Nagercoil, Mr. S. Jude Armstrong, Assistant Director of Fisheries, and K. Chandrasekaran Nair, Junior Assistant, Department of Fisheries, Nagercoil for the service and help rendered to me.

I am indebted to the Librarians and Staffs of CDS, Trivandrum, ISEC, Bangalore, MIDS, Chennai, University of Kerala, Trivandrum, Alagappa University, Karaikudi, Gandhigram Rural University, Gandhigram, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli and the Librarian, S.T. Hindu College, Nagercoil for providing me with ample materials.

I thank sincerely my family members and friends who rendered persistent help in the execution of my work.

Finally, I thank God, Almighty by whose grace I am able to finish this work.