ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am grateful to many personalities and institutions for their valuable and inspiring contributions in the completion of this research work.

First and foremost, it was a rare privilege for me to have Dr. N. Thanulingom, M.Com., Ph.D., Senior Professor and Head, Department of Commerce, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai as my revered supervisor. I must say that this research work would not have been possible but for his inspiring guidance and constant encouragement. The guidance, suggestions, help and encouragement that he extended to me were profuse. I respectfully acknowledge my deep sense of gratitude to my Guide. I find no words to express my sense of gratitude for the pains he has taken in shaping this piece of work.

I remain highly indebted and extremely grateful to Dr. C. Suyambulingom, M.Sc., Ph.D., Professor of Mathematics, Tamilnadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, for his valuable guidance in the analysis of the study. He has been a constant source of inspiration and encouragement.

I am highly thankful to Thiru P. Mannual, Manager, State Bank of India, Nagercoil Main Branch, Dr. S. Boobathy, Manager, State Bank of Travancore, Nagercoil, Thiru A. Subramania Pillai, Assistant Inspector of Sericulture, Nagercoil, Thiru D. Janarthanam, M.A., Assistant Director of statistics, Nagercoil, Tmt. Meenakshi Rajagopal, I.A.S., Managing Director, Kanya Milk, Nagercoil, Thiru A. Stephen Kingsley M.Sc., (Engg.), M.I.E., B.G.L., Principal, Govt. Polytechnic, Nagercoil and Thiru P.R. Raveendran, Principal, Government I.T.I., Nagercoil for providing me with all the information I needed for the thesis.

The thesis has attained its full shape mainly due to the contribution of the entrepreneurs of the sample industrial units in Kanniyakumari district. I feel obliged to acknowledge their contributions with gratitude.

I am immensely grateful to Prof. M. Maria Sebastian, M.A., M.Phil., M.Ed., Head of the Department of English, Scott Christian College, Nagercoil, Dr. E. James R. Daniel, M.A., Ph.D., Reader in English, Scott Christian College, Nagercoil and Prof. K. Ramasamy, M.A., M.Phil., Professor of English, N.M.S.S Vellaichamy Nadar College, Madurai for going through the draft thesis and offering valuable suggestions that helped me in preparing the final draft.

I am very much thankful to the Principal, the Secretary and the members of College Committee, Sivanthi Aditanar College, Pillayarpuram, Nagercoil for permitting me to undertake this research work.

I am highly indebted to Dr. A. Meenakshi Sundarajan, M.A., Ph.D., Department of Economics, S.T. Hindu College, Nagercoil, Prof. G.M. Gandhi, Retd. Professor of English, S.T. Hindu College, Nagercoil and Dr. G. Sidhardhan, M.Com, Ph.D., Registrar, Kerala University, Thiruvananthapuram for their valuable contribution.

I am grateful to all my colleagues in Sivanthi Aditanar College, Pillayarpuram, Nagercoil for their support and encouragement.
I am also thankful to the authorities of Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Thirunelveli, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai, Ghandhigram Rural Institute (Deemed University), Ghandhigram and Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram for permitting me to use their Libraries.

I am thankful to K. Nagasamy, Bharathi Communication Centre, Nagercoil for having typed this thesis with care and promptness.

Finally I am thankful to my father Prof. V.T. Chellam, M.A., B.T. my mother Tmt. Lekshmithangam, my brother-in-law Er. C. Rajendran, B.E., M.B.A., P.T. Rajan B.Sc., B.L., and R. Selvanathan, M.Sc., M.Phil., and my wife, Tmt. T.R. Lathadevi, B.Sc., my daughter, L.T. Monicka and my son, T. Vijay for having tolerated my frequent absence and for their steady encouragement and support in the completion of this project.

Nagercoil,
27.06.1999.  
E.L.C. THIRUVARANGANATHAN