Acknowledgement

The investigator wishes to acknowledge with gratitude his appreciation to his Supervising Teacher, Dr. Joseph C. Mukalel, Reader, School of Gandhian Thought and Development Studies, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, for his incessant encouragement, generous help and meticulous guidance in meeting with the challenge of this present study. Without his scholarly and inspiring guidance, keen interest, valuable suggestions and creative criticism throughout the tenure of this investigation, it would not have been possible for the investigator to conduct a study of the present kind. The investigator expresses his immense thanks and gratitude to him for all the valuable guidance, help and advice he has rendered.

The researcher is much indebted to Rev. Dr. A. K. Chirappanath, Professor and Director, School of Gandhian Thought and Development Studies, Mahatma Gandhi University, for his kind help and inspiration in carrying out this work.

I am earnestly beholden to my M.Ed. teachers, especially to Dr. A. Sukumaran Nair and Dr. K. Soman, who have been the soul force and motivation behind this endeavour. The intermittent contacts and interactions we had at various educational seminars, refresher courses and workshops have undoubtedly contributed a lot in the exposure of the different aspects of the problem under study. The researcher extends his heartfelt thanks to them.

The investigator is much thankful to his colleagues at St. Joseph's Training College, Mannanam, for he has benefited much from the discussions he had with them in the Department.

The investigator wishes to express his sincere thanks to the Librarians and non-teaching staff of the School of Gandhian Thought and Development Studies as well as the Librarian and non-teaching staff of St. Joseph's Training College, Mannanam, for their unreserved help.

The researcher extends his sincere thanks to the Administrative staff of Ph.D. Section and of AC-All, for their kind directions and generous services.

I am much indebted to my B.Ed. students during the academic year 1997- '98, who took much pain and effort in compiling data for the study.

The investigator acknowledges with much gratitude the scholarly assistance rendered by Mr. Sajan K. U., Mr. Benoy K. Xavier and Mr. Harikuttan of M/s Beta Computer Site, Cantas, Kottayam, in data processing and statistical computations.

The researcher places on record his sincere thanks to the Heads of schools, teachers and respondents of various schools from where the samples were drawn; without their co-operation this study would not have become a success.

Lastly, I am much indebted to Mr. Robin and all other members of M/s Copy Write, Ettumanoor, to whom goes the credit of bringing out this work neatly and elegantly.

All the more a word of affectionate gratitude to the investigator's wife, Mrs. Salikutty Mathew, teacher, Government Higher Secondary School, Vaikom. She has been the crutch and source of inspiration throughout the tenure of this investigation.

Mathew V. T.