ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The research scholar wishes to express his heartfelt thanks and gratitude to Dr. S. Prabakaran, M.A., M.Litt., Ph.D., Reader and H.O.D. of Economics, St. John’s College, Palayamkottai - 627 002 and Dr. T. Valuthi Varagunasingh, M.Sc., M.Phil., Ph.D., Professor and Head of Environmental Economics, School of Economics, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai - 625 021, for their able guidance and advice during this research programme. Their timely encouragement and inspiring support enabled the research scholar to complete the thesis successfully.

The research scholar also wishes to thank the University Grants Commission, and the Management of St. John’s College for granting one year study leave under Faculty Improvement Programme (FIP) during 1995-96. The research scholar thanks the Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai, for permitting him to do this research work in the University during the same year.

The successful completion of this thesis would not have been possible without the assistance of many people particularly the public of Tirunelveli Corporation who gave their time for filling the survey schedule and questionnaire in spite of their personal inconveniences.

The research scholar expresses his sincere gratitude to the officials of Tirunelveli Corporation, particularly Mr. Regunathan, B.E., M.B.A., Executive Engineer, Tirunelveli Corporation for their services rendered while compiling the relevant data on Tirunelveli Corporation.
The timely help of Dr. P. Kanagaraj, M.A., PGDTE, Ph.D., Reader in English, St. John’s College, Palayamkottai is kindly acknowledged.

The research scholar also expresses his thanks to Mr. N. Murugesan, Sri Balaji Computers, Palkalainagar, Madurai - 625 021, for his neat execution of the thesis.

Above all, the research scholar bows his head in front of the Almighty who is the author of all inspirations.