Acknowledgements
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

At the outset, I thank Almighty God for providing me good health to undertake and complete successfully this research work.

It is my bounden duty to express my deep sense of gratitude to my guide Dr. S. Prabaharan, M.A., M.Litt., Ph.D., Reader in Economics (Rtd.), St. John’s College, Palayamkottai for his learned and meticulous guidance in bringing out this thesis. I also thank Dr. B. Maria John, M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D., Reader in History, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli for sparing his time for discussion on the historical part of the thesis and making appropriate changes and suggestions. I acknowledge my sincere thanks for their valuable suggestions, keen interest and constant encouragement.

I owe a deep debt of gratitude to Dr. J. Balasingh, M.Sc., M.Phil., Ph.D., Principal, St. John’s College, Palayamkottai for permitting me to do this research. I acknowledge my sincere thanks for his valuable suggestions, keen interest and constant encouragement evinced throughout my research work.

My heartfelt thanks are due to Rt. Rev. Samuel, Moderator, M.A., B.D., CSI Synod, Chennai for his blessings and encouragement. I do also express my deep sense of gratitude to the Rt. Rev. Dr. Jeyapaul David, M.A., B.D., D.D., who was instrumental in making available valuable records and for his encouragement, valuable guidance and suggestions.

My special thanks are due to Rt. Rev. Daniel Abraham, and Rt. Rev. Jason S. Dharmaraj (former CSI Bishops in Tirunelveli) who have been a source of encouragement and guidance throughout my study and research.

I am particularly thankful to our correspondent Sri S.P.A. Arputharaj, Lay Secretary, CSI, Tirunelveli Diocese for permitting me to do the research and I also thank him for his motivation and support.

I also thank Mr. Jeyasingh and Mr. A.D.J.C. Dhinakaran, former CSI Lay Secretaries in Tirunelveli for sparing their time to have a look at the manuscript and for providing me valuable source materials and suggestions.

Special words of appreciation and thanks are due to Mr. S.D.K. Rajan, Education Standing Committee Secretary, Office-Bearers, Executive Committee Members of the Tirunelveli Diocese and Diocesan Office Staff who had been a great source of inspiration during my work at the Diocesan Office.
I also offer my special gratitude to Rev. Milton Jeganathan, Director, Department of Mission and Evangelism, CSI Synod, Chennai for his encouragement and guidance.

I am particularly thankful to Dr. P. Annaraja, Reader in Mathematics and Mr. Thangaraj, Assistant, St. Xavier’s B.Ed. College, Tirunelveli who thoroughly read the script and undertook necessary editing work for the statistical part of the study and made necessary corrections and gave suggestions for improvement in the manuscript from the readers’ point of view.

My special thanks are due to the Ologians, Missionaries, Pastors, Church leaders, Directors, etc. whose writings have been immensely used in the formulation of the study and referred to and quoted in this enlightenment that provided necessary guidance and direction for this study.

I am greatly indebted to Dr. T.Valuthi Varagunasingh, M.Sc., Ph.D., former Head of the Department of Economics, Madurai-Kamaraj University, Madurai, Dr. Mashake of B.R. Ambedkhar Marathwada University, Aurangabad for having gone through the entire manuscript and made invaluable suggestions for improving the quality of this study report.

My particular thanks are due to Dr. Kamsa Mohideen, M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D., Principal, Muslim Arts College, Thiruvithancode for his learned counsel, meticulous guidance and valuable suggestions. His lovable and affectionate attention during my visits to his house were lively and facilitated my work easy.

I also offer my special gratitude to Dr. J. John Vellakkan, M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D. for sparing his valuable time to have a look at the interview schedule and shape it into an appealing one.

My sincere thanks are due to the Heads of different Institutions, Teachers, Churches and the Catechists for their unfailing support and spirit of accommodation in the collection of primary data. I express my special thanks to the Correspondents who spent their valuable time for interviews during their busy times of work and their information enriched the interpretations and inferences of my study.

I express my particular thanks to Dr. Manuel, Director, Community College, Surandai for going through the chapter on education and giving valuable suggestions.
I express my deep debt of gratitude to Rev. Devaraj, Registrar, ACTS University, Bangalore for providing valuable source material and suggestions which enriched the contents and the bibliography of the study.

I express my gratitude to Dr. P. Kanagaraj, M.A., Ph.D., Director, Community College, Palayamkottai, Dr. Nirmala Thangaraj, M.A., Ph.D., Head, Department of English, Sarah Tucher College, Palayamkottai, Prof. S. Devairakkam, M.A., M.Phil., Head, Department of Economics, St. John’s College, Palayamkottai and Prof. David Augustine Karunaharan, M.A., M.Phil., for spending their valuable time to make changes in the language of the thesis that improved its quality and made it more presentable.


My warm thanks are due to our Department Staff and my friends particularly Dr. S. Sankaranarayanan, Dr. L. Kumaragurubar and Mr. Margoschis for their affectionate concern and hospitality whenever I spent time with them.

My sincere thanks are also due to those who uphold me in prayer, particularly Br. Susi Prabaharadoss & Family, Br. Ashokraj & Family and Br. Manosai & Family.

Special words of thanks and appreciation are due to Jose Computers and Mahasri Computers, Palayamkottai for developing the software for the study and presentation of the data in graphs, charts and diagrams. My special thanks are also due to Mrs. Mangai for her painstaking work on formatting and converting the script into printed form.

Last, but not the least, I am grateful to my affectionate wife Mrs. Juliet Shoba, my son Deepan K. Kishore, who always took care of my needs and paid special attention to my health while seriously at work.