ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am greatly indebted to many individuals and institutions in this study.

I should most sincerely thank my guide and supervisor, Dr. S. Raju, who has guided me through my research, closely following and supporting me at every step. My great debt of gratitude to him is beyond words.

I am particularly grateful to Dr. Rajan Gurukkal, Director, School of Social Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University, who initiated me to this research work and offered every help and encouragement. I am also grateful to the other members of the Faculty, especially Dr. K.T. Ram Mohan, Smt. P. Radhika and to the Staff of the School for the invaluable help I received during the period of my research.

I must thank Rev. Fr. Jose Thachil, Manager, St. Xavier’s College Vaikom; Rev. Dr. Varghese Palamattom, former Principal; Sri. Joseph Augustine, Principal; and all my colleagues especially, Sri. M.M. Mathai, Sri. Mathew Emmanuel, Sri. Tomy Mathew, Sri. Tomy Joseph, Smt. Alamma Thomas and Miss A. Rajalekshmi for their help and encouragement.

My sincere thanks are also due to the Chairman, the Chief Executive and the Staff of the Kerala Headload Workers Welfare Board and the Chairmen and Conveners of Ernakulam and Kollam Local Committees. I am greatly indebted to the headload workers, the trade union leaders of the State and the office bearers of the Kerala Vyapari Vyavasayi Ekopana Samiti.
I owe a great deal to Dr. P.M. Thomas and Sri. P. George Mathew, for the constant help they have given me from the very beginning of the study. I remember with immense gratitude their constant support and encouragement.

I have been greatly benefited from my discussions with Dr. Martin Patrick and Sri. S. Sreekumar. Their valuable suggestions and incisive comments were highly beneficial for my study.

It is my privilege to express sincere thanks to my esteemed Professor Sri. K.M Chacko for diligently criticising and correcting my thesis in its draft form.

I extend my sincere thanks to the librarians of Mahatma Gandhi University; School of Social Sciences, M.G. University; University of Kerala; Cochin University of Science and Technology; Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram and Kollam Public Library and Research Centre for helping me with references.

I must thank the University Grants Commission for granting me Fellowship under the Faculty Improvement Programme, which has enabled me to make this study.

I am also thankful to Sri. Jojo. V. Mani and the staff of the Copy Write, Ettumanoor for their sincere service.

Babu Joseph