ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am immensely indebted to my Research Supervisor Dr. (Miss) M.S. Kalanidhi, M.A., Ph.D., Lecturer in Psychology, University of Madras for her valuable guidance and sustained interest in the present study.

I express my sincere thanks to Dr. C.R. Paramesh, M.A., A.M. (Duke), M.Litt., Ph.D., then the Professor and Head of Department of Psychology for his guidance and supervision at the initial stage of this study.

I thank Dr. T.N. Shanmugham, M.A., M.Litt., Ph.D., U.G.C. National Fellow and Professor of Psychology, University of Madras and Dr. P. Rama Rao, Reader-in-charge, Department of Psychology, University of Madras for the encouragement and moral support extended to me by them.

I wish to thank Dr. S. Narayanan, M.A., Ph.D., Dip. in Statistics, Reader-in-charge, Department of Psychology, University of Madras, P.G. Centre, Coimbatore for the orientation given to me during the early stages of study.

My thanks are to Mr. R. Ananthasayanam, M.A., Mr. S. Aruchamy, M.Sc., Mr. S. Chandrasekaran, M.A., Mr. Narayana Rao, M.L., Mr. Palanivel, M.A., M.Phil. and Mr. S. Siddeswaran and Mr. S. Sathyamoorthy, M.Com. for their timely help.

My special thanks are due to Mr. Subramaniam, Special Officer (Tribal Welfare), Government of Tamil Nadu.