The investigator expresses his profound sense of gratitude to Dr. R. Jayagopal, M.A., M.S. (Indiana). Ph.D. (New Mexico), Professor and Head, Department of Adult and Continuing Education, University of Madras, for his valuable guidance and suggestions to complete this research work. His constant encouragement has enabled the investigator to maintain his enthusiasm always at a high level. The investigator profusely thanks him for all his acts of kindness.

The investigator would like to extend his sincere thanks to Dr. M. Raghuram Singh, Professor and Head, Division I, State Council of Educational Research and Training, Tamil Nadu, Dr. P.S. Balasubramanian, Professor and Head, Department of Education, University of Madras, Dr. R. Ananthasayanam, former population Education specialist, Department of Adult and Continuing Education, University of Madras and Dr. C. Murukadas, Professor, Department of Economics, University of Madras for their valuable suggestions in the early stages of the research work.
A project such as this would not be possible without the help and co-operation of a large number of individuals and other related organisations.

The investigator owes a debts of gratitude to the District Educational Officer, Tindivanam, Headmasters of Elementary Schools, Tindivanam Educational District and Executive Officer, Tindivanam for helping to get the list of elementary schools, Parents of children belonging to weaker section and location of the villages for the study respectively.

Acknowledgements and thanks for the interest and help rendered are due to many people, all of whom cannot be named but among whom must be mentioned are Dr. N.V.R. Kapali, Assistant Director, Department of Adult and Continuing Education, University of Madras, Mr. N. Nagarajan, Project Officer, Department of Adult and Continuing Education, University of Madras, and Mr. D.M. Bheem Rao, Research Scholar, Department of Adult and Continuing Education, University of Madras.

Thanks are due to Mr. Vijaya Raghavan, Junior Programme Officer, Department of Computer Science, I.I.T., Madras for extending Computer facilities, Dr. Srinivasan and Mr. Natarajan, Department of Statistics,
University of Madras for their help in Analysis of the research data, Mr. Rajmohan, Department of Geography, University of Madras for helping in location of sample villages for main study and Mrs. Jamuna Kalyani Sridharan, Professor and Head of Department of English, Dr. Ambedkar College, Madras for her help in improving the language in the presentation.

The prompt provision of information by the respondents of the research are also acknowledged.

Thanks are due to Mr. G. Siva Kumar, for his help in typing out the manuscripts.

Special thanks are due to M/s. Research Aid Centre, Chepauk, Madras for kind help in typing out the final version of the Thesis.

A project of this magnitude would not have been completed without the support and encouragement of all members of the family, colleagues and friends of the investigator.