ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the following people without whose immense contribution and help this thesis would have been impossible to complete.

I am deeply indebted to

- My supervisor Dr. S. Harikumar, Reader in Economics, Pondicherry University, Mahe Centre.
- Department Head. Dr. P. Ibrahim, Department staff C.M. Srikala, M.P. Premin, K.M. Vijayaraghavan, and Stella Fernandez.
- Librarians of Centre for Department Studies, Trivandrum, Cochin University of Science and Technology, Cochin, Institute of Social and Economic change, Bangalore, Indian Institute of Sciences, Bangalore, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, World Bank Library, New Delhi, Indian Institute of Ecology and Environment, New Delhi, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi, Tata Energy Research Institute, New Delhi, Institute of Economic Growth, New Delhi, Madras School of Economics, Chennai, Madras Institute of Development Studies, Chennai, Madras University, Chennai, Centre for Research on New International Economic order, Chennai, Centre for Social Studies, Surat, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development and Research, Mumbai and NCERT, New Delhi.
- T. P. Abdul Latheef, Deputy Mayor, Calicut Corporation, Health officers and other office staff of the Calicut Corporation.
- My Colleague T. Ramadevi and others.
- The wholesale dealers, retail dealers, waste collectors and all other respondents of the study area.
- Dr. T. P. M. Fareed, Lecturer in Statistics, Farook College, Jabir, Salam and Surabhi, Microtech Computers.

After all my deepest appreciation is also expressed to my friends, relatives and all those who have helped me in the successful and timely completion of my work.

SHAMEERDAS, T.