ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First and foremost of all, I thank the God for His immense grace and blessings at each and every stage of this thesis.

I express my deep sense of gratitude to Dr. K.E. Sriramappa, Professor of Economics, Department of Economics, Manasa Gangothri, University of Mysore, for his valuable and kind advice whenever I approached him.

I am very much indebted to Dr. Maathai. K. Mathiyazhagan., Senior Research Fellow, Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore, whose inspiration was the seed on which my ambitions grew and branched out.

I am also very much grateful to Ms. Prathiba Joy for her unmindful cooperation and assistance in editing my thesis.

I am very much thankful to Dr. A.M.S Ramasamy, Professor of Mathematics, Pondicherry University and Dr. T. Srivenkataramana, Retired Professor of Statistics, Bangalore University for their valuable suggestions during my work.

My sincere thanks to the officials of Directorate of Health & Family Welfare, Pondicherry, officials of Civil Supplies, Government of Pondicherry, in providing adequate data's and information.

No doubt, the help from my colleagues, well-wishers and my students which is an indispensable ingredient for my success.
Words cannot express my indebtedness to my parents, relatives and friends for their constant moral support in successful completion of this thesis and have always been a source of inspiration in all my academic endeavors.

L.GANESH