ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The investigator places herself at the feet of God Almighty and praises Him for all the blessings He has showered on her throughout this endeavour.

The investigator expresses her deep sense of gratitude to the research guide

**Dr. Peter Mathew**, Principal, Mangalam College of Education, Ettumanoor, Kottayam for his meticulous guidance and inspiration for the conduct of the present study.

The expertise of **Dr. A. Theresa Susan**, Head of the Department of Education, University of Kerala and her encouragement during the course of the study is graciously acknowledged.

The investigator expresses her deep sense of gratitude and appreciation to

**Dr. M. O. Koshy**, Former Vice-Chancellor, Kannur University for his incessant encouragement, sincere guidance and valuable suggestions in every stage of the study.

The investigator places her wholehearted gratitude to **Dr. P. V. Surajbabu**, Former Principal, S.N.M Training College, Moothakunnam, Kerala for the scholarly advice and encouragement in the course of the present study.

The researcher greatly acknowledges **Dr. B. Varghese**, Principal, Faith Theological Seminary, Adoor, Kerala for the expertise and guidance given in every stage of the study.

The investigator expresses her sincere gratitude to the librarian and staffs of the University Library, Palayam, Thiruvananthapuram for extending necessary facilities for the study which deserves special mention.

The researcher is very much indebted to **Dr. P. K. Sureshkumar**, Assistant Librarian, University of Kerala, Palayam, Thiruvananthapuram for being most approachable and for providing necessary support for the completion of the study.
The investigator offers deep felt thanks to Dr. K. S. George, Former Principal, Titus II Teachers College, Tiruvalla for all the valuable guidance and encouragement extended for the study.

The investigator offers her wholehearted gratitude to Dr. T. K. Mathew, Dr. Mini John and Dr. K. S. Joseph of Titus II Teachers College, Tiruvalla for the sincere help rendered as valuable suggestions throughout the conduct of this work.

Dr. Rosamma Philip, Associate Professor, Mount Tabor Training College, Pathanapuram, Kerala deserves special thanks for her expertise and valuable comments rendered in the course of the present study.

The researcher expresses special thanks to Smt. Asha Rani A, Lecturer in Natural Science, Mangalam College of Education, Ettumanoor, Kottayam for her valuable suggestions and support throughout the course of the present study.

Thanks are also extended to the subject experts and eminent personalities for their timely support, motivation and cooperation while administering the interview schedule and rendering scholarly and valuable information for the present study.

Thanks to Mr. Motty Cherian, Datawrite Computers for the neat formatting and binding of the thesis.

The investigator fondly acknowledges all the members of her family who have supported at all stages of the research.

Finally the investigator wishes to place on record her indebtedness to all those who contributed directly and indirectly for bringing this thesis to fruition.

Nimmi Maria Oommen