ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I acknowledge with gratitude the encouragement given to me by Dr. U. Sankar Professor and Head, Department of Econometrics and Dr. A. M. Nalla Gounden, former Head, Department of Econometrics, University of Madras.

I would like to place on record my sincere gratitude to the Vice Chancellor and Registrar, University of Madras for the facilities provided to me for carrying out this research piece.

I am grateful to the U.G.C. for the financial assistance to this work awarded through the Eighth Five Year Plan Teacher Fellowship Scheme.

I am immensely grateful to my guide Dr. (Mrs.) K. Shanthi, for her sustained encouragement, inspiration and valuable suggestions.

With gratitude I remember the encouragement I received from the other faculty members of the Department, and I also whole heartedly thank my Co-research Scholars of Econometrics Department for their comments and suggestions, particularly Dr. Vijaya Mohanan Pillai for his valuable suggestions. I also wish to record my gratitude to Dr. T.M. Srinivasan Department of Economics, University of Madras, who spent a great deal of his valuable time in commenting extensively on the analysis chapter of this thesis. I record my sincere thanks to the Staff, Ph.D. Section and Mr. Ameen, Office Staff, Econometrics Department, University of Madras.

I am immensely benefited from the Madras Institute of Development Studies Library, and wish to place my record of gratitude to Late Dr. Malcolm S. Adiseshiah, the Unique Educationalist, for his immeasurable sacrifice, in instituting the Library which is an asset to Research Scholars like me. The support I received from the Faculty members, the Librarian, and the Library Staff of the Institution
played a vital role in the completion of this thesis. I also thank Staff of Madras University Library, and the Connemara Public Library for their help in finding the reading material for my thesis.

I am glad to express my respectful gratitude to the officials at the Handloom and Textile Department, Tamil Nadu, who delivered all the official information available with them to make my work much easier. My special thanks go to: Mr. V. Sethuraman (Marketing Manager), Mr. N. Rajendran (A.D. Powerloom) Mr. A.N. Jayaraj Senior Technical Assistant (Handloom), Mr. M. Prabhakaran (Handloom Officer), Mr. P. Dhanasekaran (Handloom Officer) and Mr. R. Krishnamoorthy (Handloom Inspector), for their kind service and co-operation. I would also like to express my sincere thanks to Mr. Ramdoss, Senior Officer (Census Department), Madras.

The study would not have been possible but for the kind and encouraging attitude of the Additional Director of Handlooms and Textiles (Tirunelveli Circle) and the officials. The officials in the co-operative societies that I have visited during the course of my work were very kind to provide the useful data. In particular, I thank Mr. Mariappan, Project officer (Handloom) for all that he has done for me.

I whole heartedly thank my principal, A.A. Govt. Arts College, Cheyyar, for her encouragement. I have pleasure in thanking the Head of the Department of Economics and my Colleagues for their whole hearted co-operation.

I must thank, Mr. Dharma Perumal and the M.M.C.C for their voluntary help in computing my data relating to my thesis. I also wish to express my thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Uma Palaniappan for the necessary help in computing the Secondary data. I owe my deep sense of gratitude to Mr. R. Ramachandran, the great scholar and philosopher, for his Godly blessings for this work. I also thank
his daughter Mrs. Swarnalatha Arasan and her assistant who typed the 'Synopsis' of the thesis.

I am highly obliged to the Proprietor and the working members of the Vivek Computer Centre, who unselfishly and unselfishly helped me in computerising the whole part of my thesis.

I would be failing in my duty, if I do not thank my Lecturer S.Sukanya (Guru Nanak College) for her valuable association with me throughout the work. I wish to record my appreciation to Mrs. Fatima Jacob, Anna University, Mrs. Mariene (Guru Nanak College), and Mrs. Meenakshi (Queen Marys College) for their valuable contribution in editing the work during the course of my writing.

A good deal of my grateful appreciation and love is due to my elder brother J.Alex Mathapillai (Govt. Hr.Sec. School, Sankarankoil) and his friends who have accompanied and assisted me in data collection. My respectful thanks are due to my cousin brother Mr.M.S.P. Thambu Raj (St.Xavier’s Hr.Sec. School, Palayamkottai) who have been collecting the society information from the official record (Tirunelveli Circle).

My deepest sense of appreciation and love is due to my husband, and children, who have been patiently bearing with me during the past years. I express my deep sense of gratitude to my parents who evinced great interest in my studies and career.

J. GNANAPUSHPAM