ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I express my profound gratitude to my research supervisor Dr. C. Aruna, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Pondicherry University for her guidance, incredible motivation, cooperation and benevolent care to make all these happen. This quest of my career dedicates itself only to her moral support.

I deeply feel obliged to Dr. G. Ramathirtham, Head, Department of Sociology, Pondicherry University, for his encouragement and valuable suggestions throughout the course of the study.

I am highly indebted to the Doctoral committee members Dr. B.B. Mohanty, Professor, Department of Sociology, Pondicherry University and Dr. B. Rangaiah, Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, Pondicherry University for their valuable inputs and suggestions in the Doctoral Committee Meetings for the improvement of my work.

I extend my sincere gratitude to Dr. Gulam Dastagir, Dr. Sudha Sitharaman, Dr. Pradeep Kumar Parida, Dr. Intirenla Longkumer and Dr. Mansy M. for their valuable support rendered throughout my presence in the department.

I express my thanks to the support staff Mr. Mathivanan and Mr. Manohar, Department of Sociology, Pondicherry University, for their support during my study.

I owe my thanks to Dr. N. Ganeshan, for his statistical assistance for my research work.

I thank Pondicherry University for providing University Fellowship and ICSSR for awarding me Open Doctoral Fellowship for my research work.

I am thankful to District Rehabilitation Centre for providing me secondary informations regarding school details of differently abled children. I profusely thank Mrs. Meena and Mrs. Reeta. I am indebted to the respondents of the study and my gratitude to them which cannot be sufficiently conveyed in a brief acknowledgement.
However, this work would not have been possible without their kind cooperation and their patience in providing valuable information.

I am greatly thankful to my friends Dr. C. Balaramalingam, S. Sumithra, Manas Kumar Mallik, Chita Ranjan Das, Manosmita, Hemlatha Bhatt, C. Sathish, Debadatta Pradhan, Bineeta Dash, Deepti, Ankita, Nibedita, Papesh, Balaji of my Department, who assisted me during the process of my research work and making my stay memorable in this university and also friends of other Departments Thambi Durai, Manonmani, Panjali, Sathish and finally all my friends and juniors.

Last but not the least, my words are insufficient throughout my life and beyond to acknowledge my parents’, sister, brother, sister-in-law Nancy Sam, brother-in-law Prince and my husband P. Lawrence for their patience, inseparable support, prayers and moral boost to let me remain far away. I express my deep sense of gratitude to them. Above all I am grateful to the Almighty for the blessings to complete the work successfully.

A. BLESSIE RAJAREENA