ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The investigator is pleased to acknowledge with gratitude all those who have contributed directly or indirectly to complete this study.

Words are not enough to express her deep appreciation and gratitude to **Dr. Minikutty A.**, Associate Professor, School of Pedagogical Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University, for her valuable guidance, constant encouragement, immense patience and kind treatment throughout the conduct of the study. She has been a source of inspiration to the investigator during all phases of the study.

The investigator is obliged to Prof. Dr. T.V. Thulasidharan, Director, School of Pedagogical Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University and Prof. Dr. A. Sudharma and Prof. Dr. P.J. Jacob, Former Deans and Directors, School of Pedagogical Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University, for all the facilities and directions rendered.

The investigator is very grateful to Dr. Celine Pereira, Associate Professor, School of Pedagogical Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University, for her valuable suggestions and words of encouragement.

She is also thankful to Dr. K.R. Sivadasan, Former Professor of Education, University of Kerala for spending his valuable time to discuss her research work and for providing insightful advice and guidance.

The investigator expresses her sincere thanks to all Faculty Members and Non teaching staff of School of Pedagogical Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University for their whole-hearted cooperation and support. She wishes to thank the Librarians of School of Pedagogical Sciences, University Library – Mahatma Gandhi University, Department of Education – Calicut University and SCERT library, Thiruvananthapuram for providing help in collecting literature and reference materials.

The investigator remembers with gratitude the Headmasters/Headmistresses, teachers and students of various schools selected for data collection, for the cooperation rendered in conducting the study.

The investigator extends a special word of thanks to all her friends and fellow researchers for their kindness and timely help rendered to her during the study. She recalls with gratitude the assistance rendered by Mr. Manoj A.V., research scholar, SPS, during the tool preparation phase.

The investigator is deeply indebted to her parents, Mr. A. S. Ramachandra Kurup and Mrs. K.G. Suseelamma, husband Mr. Prasad P, brother Mr. Kannan R and other members of the family for their immense moral support and help which turned out to be a major source of inspiration for the successful accomplishment of this task.

Above all, the investigator is thankful to God Almighty for all that she is blessed with.

LEKSHMI S.