ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

When it comes to acknowledgements and the task of putting them down on paper, the names that flash by in the mind are many. It would be an arduous and almost impractical attempt to include all the people in the space span of a couple of pages, but here are some very special persons, without whom I think my endeavour would be incomplete.

First of all I am indebted to Dr. A. Suriakanthi, Retired Professor, Department of Lifelong Learning and Extension, Gandhigram Rural Institute-Deemed University – for all those inspiring words of wisdom, supportiveness, for the immense amount of patience that she has always shown, for all the academic inputs and emotional support and for the incessant motivation that has driven this work to the finishing point.

I am equally thankful to Dr. K Krishnakumari, Retired Professor, Department of Demography, University of Kerala under whose joint guidance the present study has been completed. I am grateful for the precious moments that I have spent with her and for each one of those remarkable gems of thought that has been shared throughout the discussions. God has given me a wonderful opportunity to unleash my potential under her guidance.

I am thankful to Dr. R. Subburaman, Professor and Head, Department of Lifelong Learning and Extension for giving me access to all the facilities in the Department for conducting the study.

I am extremely thankful to Prof. K A. Hashim, Director, SCERT Kerala, and also my colleagues there for the timely support and extending library facility to me for completing the study.

I am grateful to Dr. Celine Pereira, Professor, School of Pedagogical Sciences, M.G. University, Kottayam, for her invaluable assistance rendered in this research work and for spreading those huge bouts of positivism, when a person is most in need of them.

I am also thankful to Dr. Asha T. Chacko, Technical Officer, Dept of Demography, University of Kerala for being my best friend, and for those
delightful spurts of love, fun and energy, timely advice and assistance that she has
given from time to time.

A special word of thanks to Dr. Oommen P. Mathew, Research Investigator,
Population Research Centre, University of Kerala for helping to sail through the
intricacies of statistical analysis, and for proffering much prized assistance in
delineating the results with precision.

I am grateful to Dr. Sushil Kumar, Associate Professor, DB College,
Sasthamcotta for his encouragement.

I thank Sri. Rajesh N, the Higher Secondary teacher who supported me in the
intervention programe at school.

I record my deep sense of gratitude to the Head of the institution of the school
where I visited for data collection.

I am grateful to Sidhik T. and Dileep R.S. who were behind me in executing and
bringing out this thesis in the present format.

I am grateful to UNFPA and NCERT for permitting me to use the tool developed
by them for the study.

I also acknowledge the kind permission given by CACIE and SCERT, Kerala to
use the material developed by them for the study.

My sincere thanks to my parents, in laws, other family members and friends
for their support and prayers.

Finally my heartfelt thanks are due to my husband Pradeep Kumar P.K. and my
children Pranav Pradeep P. and Megha Pradeep P. for their immense support,
tolerance and valuable prayers which fortified me with the ability to complete this
work.

I am thankful to God Almighty for HIS blessings.

Meena S.