ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I express my heartfelt gratitude and sincere thanks to my guide Dr. J.K. Stephen, Principal, Malankara Catholic College, Mariagiri, Kaliakkavilai for his most valuable guidance and keen interest in giving proper shape to the work and in keeping my spirit sustained throughout and thus making the work completely successful.

I owe my heartfelt thanks to Dr. Agnes Stephen, M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D., Reader and H.O.D of Sociology, S.T. Hindu College, Nagercoil-2 for her invaluable help rendered towards the finalisation of the draft of my research work.

I extend my sincere and heartfelt thanks to the Managing Board, Principal and Faculty Members of Economics Department, S.T. Hindu College, Nagercoil for their help in the course of my research work.

My thanks are due to the officers and staff of the following libraries: Madurai Kamaraj University Library, Madurai; Manonmaniam
Sundaranar University Library, Tirunelveli; Kerala University Department of Library Science, Thiruvananthapuram; Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram; Madras Institute of Development Studies, Chennai and Centre of Rubber Board, Nagercoil-2 for their generous help towards my literature collection for this study.

I express my thanks from the bottom of my heart to my beloved Father S. Sigarayan, Mother T. Ramani and to my brothers, sisters Niece Ahalya Richard and Nephew Ashik Richard who were helped me lot during this study.

I would like to express my appreciation to Mr. G. Janin Jaji, Nesamony Nagar, Nagercoil for the neat execution of the thesis.

I am bound to convey my sincere thanks and deep sense to my dear friends Mr. A. Seilan, Mrs. B. Mary Sahila Rajan for their help and encouragement to do my research work.

Above all I thank God Almighty for His abundant mercy shown upon me during the period of study.

(S. DENESH SINGH)