ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First and foremost, I should express my heartfelt gratitude to my supervisor, Professor R.N.Pillai, without whose motivating guidance this work would not have been possible. With deep sense of gratitude I recall that I could always approach him for clarifications and discussions however busy he was. He always provided me with ample opportunities to present my ideas within and outside the Department which has helped me in many ways. Words are few to express my sincere thanks towards him.

I am very much thankful to all my teachers in the Department and especially to Sri.T.K.S.Unnithan, Sri.K.Kalyanaraman, Smt.Vrinda Devi Thampuran and Dr.T.S.K.Moothathu for their kind and valuable advices.

My thanks are due to Professor N.Yannaros, Stockholm University, Sweden for having sent me a copy of his Ph.D. thesis and some of the reprints of his works. Professor J.Grandell, Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden and Professor A.M.Mathai, McGill University, Canada were helpful in giving me very useful suggestions.

Sri.G.Sivadasan, the Librarian of the Department was always ready to extend help. The nonteaching staff of the Department helped me in completing the necessary official formalities. The staff, Library of the Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram were also helpful to me.
I cannot forget my friends who always extended their cooperation with pleasure.

I acknowledge with thanks the financial assistance from the C.S.I.R., India, first as in the form of a Junior Research Fellowship and later in the form of a Senior Research Fellowship.

I must appreciate the hardwork rendered by Shylaja S.L. in typing this thesis in an elegant fashion and the neat binding work done by M/s. St. Joseph's Press, Thiruvananthapuram.

Thiruvananthapuram

9.1.1991

Sandhya, E.