Acknowledgements

The study will not be completed without acknowledging my sincere gratitude to all persons who have helped me in the preparation of this dissertation.

I owe a deep sense of gratitude to Dr. Baby, M.D, Reader, St. Dominic’s College, Kanjirappally who moulded me towards the research and guided me throughout the course of my research work and also went through several drafts of the thesis. Without his help and encouragement, it would have been very difficult for me to accomplish this research work.

I am extremely grateful to Dr. T.M. Jacob, Lecturer Selection Grade, Department of Statistics, Nirmala College, Moovattupuzha, who had helped me whole-heartedly in the various aspects of statistical and analytical portions of this investigation. My thanks are also due to Mr. K.G. Kerala Varma, for correcting and editing manuscripts in the proper form.

I am indebted to Dr. Ancykutty Joseph, Principal, Prof. P. T. Jose and Prof Augustin Thomas, former principals, St. Dominic’s College, Kanjirappally, for their invaluable help. I would specially like to express my thanks to Prof. James K. George, Head, Research and post Graduate Department of Commerce, St. Dominic’s College Kanjirappally, and all other members of the Department of Commerce, St. Dominic’s College, Kanjirappally for their valuable help and constant encouragement throughout the pursuit of this study.

I have great pleasure in acknowledging Dr. K. Nanje Gowda, Professor, Department of Studies in Commerce, University of Mysore for generous help and encouragement.

I thank the Librarians of the Libraries of the State Planning Board, Centre for Development studies, Kerala Legislature Assembly, Mahatma Gandhi University, Calicut University, Cochin University, Mysore University, Kerala University (General Library and Department of Commerce Library), S.B. College Changanacherry, and St. Dominic’s College Kanjirappally for providing facilities of references.
I sincerely express my gratitude to Dr. R. Jayakumar, SVR NSS College, Vazhoor, Sri. B. Harilal, D.B. College, Pampa, Dr. B. Gopakumar, N.S.S College, Pandalam, and Prof. N. Jayraj, M.L.A., Vazhoor, for their generous help and encouragement.

I am thankful to the officials of the Directorate of Industries, the Department of Economics and Statistics, the District Industries Centres, and Small Industries Development Corporation. I am indebted to Mr. K. Sivaram, Mr. Philip, Mrs. Rajalekshmi, Mr. G.C. Gangadharan and Mrs. Lalitha N.M., industrial estate managers of Karunagappally, Changanacherry, Mudickal, Olavakode and Kozhikode respectively for their valuable help. I also thank Mr K.J. Louis (President) and Mr. V.A. Vincent (Secretary), of ‘The Rubber & Plastic Small Industries Association,’ Changanacherry. My thanks are also due to the entrepreneurs and employees of the small scale industrial units who spared their valuable time to cooperate with the lengthy and taxing interview.

I am grateful to Dr. G. Madhukumar, Principal, S.V.R N.S.S. College, Vazhoor, Dr. C. Gopinathan Pillai, Prof. P.R. Kesavachandran, Dr. C.R. Suseela Devi, and Dr. S. Ramachandran (Former Principals, SVR N.S.S. College Vazhoor) and my colleagues in the Department, SVR N.S.S. College Vazhoor for their good-will and encouragement.

I owe an incalculable debt to NSS Management who for having given me the permission to take up this research work.

Words cannot express my gratitude to the members of my family for all the help and encouragement I have received from them.

Above all, I thank God the Almighty, who enabled me to materialise a long cherished desire in the form of this thesis.

G. Jagadeesh Chandran