Acknowledgement

J.M. Clark once said, "Knowledge is the only instrument of production that is not subject to diminishing returns". I have understood the truth of this statement only now after a protracted labour with my dissertation. Ever since I completed my post graduation in Economics in Madras Christian College, Tambaram, I had a very strong desire to undertake research work. Several people influenced me in my long career as a student and as an employee. I recall with gratitude my teachers in college and colleagues in the Reserve Bank, for laying a very good foundation and for enabling me to further update my knowledge.

In the theatre of Ph.D. the most important persona is not the researcher but her/his Guide. It is the Guide who sustains the scholar's intellectual well being at every stage of her/his academic journey. I was fortunate in this regard to have such a gentleman scholar in Dr. Sham Bhat. Working with him was a great pleasure. By his benevolence he shrank the distance between Mumbai and Pondicherry. He gave wings to my fledgeling ideas. More than these he along with his wife Mrs. Rajalakshmi Bhat extended such a hospitality, that I take this opportunity to thank both the husband and wife, one for honing my skill and the other for transforming her house into a hearth.

The vast Pondicherry University campus surroundings and all the staff members in the Economics Department of the University provided an ambient atmosphere for learning. I wish to place on record, the commendable services provided by Shri. Senthil and Shri. Giri on all administrative matters.
I sincerely thank Reserve Bank of India, Mumbai for granting me permission to undertake this study. I am grateful to Dr. N. Nagarajan for being the primary catalyst. I am thankful to Shri. K. Kanagasabapathy, Smt. Usha Thorat, Dr. T. C. Nair, Dr. Ranjit Pattnaik and Dr. M. D. Patra, who gave their valuable time, leading to fruitful discussions, which were a great relief to the tired persona of the researcher.

My friends, Dr. Himanshu Joshi, Shri. M. K. Saggar, and Ms. S. Sugandhi deserve a special mention. Explicating the intricacies of some of the technical issues they contributed a great deal towards this work. A big thanks to them.

My thanks are also due to the staff of RBI library, Mumbai for their immense help. I wish to particularly thank Mrs. Neeta Nadkarni, Shri. T. K. Ramachandran, and Shri. Memane who went out of their way to help me. The timely help extended at a very short notice by Shri. S. D. J. Swamidoss and Shri. K. Rajkumar in a crucial moment is thankfully acknowledged. I specially thank Smt. V. V. Shinde, for her unflinching help, towards the preparation of the innumerable drafts.

I express my deep sense of gratitude to Dr. L. Jeyaseelan, for providing me with the state of art infrastructure and other facilities at Vellore. The friendly environment provided by Dr. B. Antonisamy, Shri V. Shankar and others is noteworthy.

I thank my parents and all my family members for their constant support. In particular, I thank my Big brother, Dr. V. Rajagoplan, for painstakingly going through each chapter. Specifically I wish to thank my sisters-in-law, Smt. Vijayalakshmi Rajagopalan and Smt. Radha Sridharan for the delicacies they prepared during my stay at Chennai. I appreciate my mischievous nephew Vasant who was my
chauffeur transporting me to different places. More than that I remember those lighter moments he provided, which were such a relief that alleviated my tedium. I wish to profusely thank my cousins, Smt. Ramamani Sowrirajan and Shri. T.A. Venkatachari, for offering their system, unmindful of the odd hour utilisation, as also these young nephews and niece of mine, Kannan, Devarajan Sudarshan and Ranjani, for chipping in and assisting me in their own way.

I thank my parents-in-law and others in the family for being a source of inspiration to me, and of course, my husband, Anand for his understanding and enthusiastic motivation at each and every stage of my work without which this difficult task could not have been completed.

Above all, I thank God for giving me -

The strength to self-discipline,

The mind to imagine,

The spark to innovate,

The will to dare,

The courage to explore,

The spirit to persevere, and

The patience to accomplish.

(V. Jayanthi)