ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I express my sincere gratitude to Dr. C. Sivapragasam, Professor, Department of Applied Research, Gandhigram Rural Institute-Deemed University, Dindigul my research supervisor, who was kind enough to give me proper guidance, valuable suggestions and constant encouragement to complete this research.

I gratefully extend my appreciations to Dr. K. Raja Mohan Rao, Professor, Department of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy, Bharathidasan University, Trichy, my joint supervisor for his valuable suggestions and guidance in completing the research work. His committed, systematic effort has been instrumental in completing the work successfully.

I am grateful to Dr M.A. Sudhir, Professor, Department of Applied Research, Gandhigram Rural Institute-Deemed University, Dindigul for the experience extended in designing the research and able assistance at the various stages of the study. My genuine thanks are to Dr. M. Gurusamy, Department of Extension, Gandhigram Rural Institute-Deemed University, Dindigul and Dr. C. Pitchai, Associate Professor, Department of Co-operation, Gandhigram Rural Institute-Deemed University, Dindigul, Mr. V. Saravanakumar, Research Investigator, Population Research Centre, Ambathurai for their help and constructive suggestions to improve the quality of the thesis.

I place on record, my debt of gratitude to Dr. P. Geetha, Assistant Professor in Economics, Sri G.V.G. Visalakshi College for Women, Udumalpet who has given valuable suggestions and encouragement to complete this study.

I express my sincere thanks to the faculty members of Department of Applied Research and research scholars, Gandhigram Rural Institute-Deemed University, Dindigul who have helped me in one way or other in this research study.
I acknowledge my profound gratitude to Dr. G. Baskaran, Associate Professor, Faculty of English and Foreign Language, Gandhigram Rural Institute-Deemed University, Gandhigram, Dindigul, Dr. V. Sudha, Associate Professor, Department of English, Madura College, Madurai and Mrs. A. Manjula, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Sri G.V.G. Visalakshi College for Women, Udumalpet.

I express special thanks to my colleagues and friends for their timely help in completing this research study.

I am indebted to all the respondents who readily participated in the study without whose help I could not complete the study.

Last but not least I acknowledge my family who were constantly inspiring me during the trying times.

I express my sincere thanks and gratitude to all those who have contributed directly or indirectly to make this study successful.

My sincere gratitude to the authorities of Gandhigram Rural University-Deemed University, Gandhigram, Dindigul for extending timely help to undertake this study and for providing all the required support to complete it.

G.YAMUNA