

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I wish to express my deep sense of gratitude to Dr.N.Lalitha, M.A(Eco), M.A(G.T), M.A(W.S), M.Ed. M.Phil, Ph.D., Reader, Department of Rural Development, Gandhigram Rural Institute, Deemed University, Gandhigram, under whose guidance the work was done. It is a matter of fact that without her valuable suggestions, able guidance, scholarly touch and piercing insight that she offered me in each and every stage of this study, coupled with her unreserved, sympathetic and encouraging attitude, this thesis could have not been presented in this successful manner.

I deem my privilege to thank my joint Research Supen/isor, Dr.V.P.Palaniappan, Ph.D., Co-ordinator, Extension Service Department, Sri Ramakrishna Mission Vidyalaya College of Education, Coimbatore, for his valuable counseling and useful suggestions during the course of this study.

I acknowledge with thanks the valuable consultations received from Dr.R.Venkatapirabu, Ph.D., and Dr.C.Karthikeyan, Ph.D., Associate Professors, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, Dr.M.Ramasubramaniam, Ph.D., Teaching Assistant, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Regional Research Station, Tindivanam, Dr.N.Balusamy, Ph.D., Professor and Head of Co-operation Department and Dr.G.V.Ramakrishnan, Ph.D., Professor of Education, Sri Ramakrishna Mission Vidyalaya, Coimbatore.

I express my whole hearted thanks to Shri.M.Gurusamy, Department of Political Science and Development Administration, Gandhigram Rural Institute, Gandhigram, Shri M.K.Badrinarayanan, Ph.D Scholar, Dr.K.P.M.Chinnan, Ph.D., Research associate, for all their active participation and assistance during the course of the study.

I also express my sincere thanks to all the respondents, officials and Institutions who have extended their valuable help by providing the required infonnation which enabled me to complete this work successfully.

(K.RAJKUMAR)