ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The researcher places on record her sincere and grateful thanks to her esteemed guide Dr. R. SUBBURAMAN, Professor, Department of Life Long Learning, Gandhigram Rural Institute, Gandhigram, for his scholarly advice, creative criticism, meticulous editorial care and tireless encouragement which facilitated the successful completion of this thesis.

The researcher’s thanks are due to Dr. Sr. Mariakamalan, Director, Department of Rehabilitation Science, Holy Cross College, Trichy, who was the Doctoral Committee member and helped with her guidance in all stages of the research work.

This work is certainly the outcome of the generous cooperation extended by the subjects of this study, from various special schools and Rehabilitative clinics. The researcher records her immense gratitude to them.

The researcher is greatly indebted to Dr. M. Kannan, Professor, Madurai Institute of Social Sciences, Madurai for his encouraging guidance in statistical part of this thesis and making suggestion for improvement. She also extends her thanks to all the research scholars and staff members of the Department of Life Long Learning, Gandhigram Rural Institute, Gandhigram for their timely help.

The researcher is specially grateful to Dr. Mohanram, Rtd., Professor of Saraswathi Narayanan College for his diligent care in going through the draft of the thesis and making valuable corrections.

The researcher would like to express her heartfelt thanks to Dr. Boraine Professor Department of extension education and Dr. Sudir for their support and encouragement.

The researcher thanks to Doss Students Xerox for typing this entire thesis.

The researcher thanks her parents, brother and her children for their constant and unstinted support and encouragement.