ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

My supervising teacher Dr. M. Sarngadharan, Professor and Head, Department of commerce, University of Kerala, whose inspiring and scholarly guidance, generous encouragement, strenuous efforts and dedicated endeavour at the subject made this thesis a presentable one, for which my sincere and esteemed gratitude unto him are beyond words. It has been a pleasure and privilege to work under his supervision. I am deeply indebted to him.

It is with immense pleasure that I place on record my deep sense of gratitude to Dr. Rajitha Kumar, School of Management Studies, Cochin University of Science and Technology for his valuable suggestions and encouragement for my work.

I would very much appreciate and sincerely acknowledge Principal, Dr. M.M. Mathew, St. Thomas College, Palai and Dr. Tharsis Joseph, Head of the Department of Commerce and Research Centre, Palai for promoting necessary and timely help in the successful completion of this work. My sincere gratitude also goes to the office staff of St. Thomas College, Palai for their co-operation and assistance.

I am thankful to the University Grants Commission for granting me the teacher fellowship. I also extend my thanks to Sr. Speciosa, Principal, St. Xavier’s College for Woman, Aluva for the constant encouragement and support. Thereby acknowledge my thanks to Mrs. Anu Simon, Project Scientist, Department of Atmosphere Science, Cochin University of
Science and Technology.

I wish to acknowledge my sincere thanks to Sri. Kunju Moosa Managing Director, Forest Industries Travancore Ltd, and all the officials of the same, who provided valuable help without which the study would not have been carried out. I also extend my thanks to the consumers of Forest Industries Travancore Ltd. who supplied me with the valuable data.

My thanks are also due to the librarian, Department of Commerce, University of Kerala, Librarian, School of Management Studies, Cochin University of Science and Technology, Librarian, University of Calicut, staff of the library of Forest Department Vazuthacad, Thiruvananthapuram, staff off the library of Kerala Forest Research Institute, Peechi who have helped me in several occasions.

I vote my thanks to Mr. Sudheer, Rachana Graphics, Aluva for the neat typing work.

SYBILA PIUS FERNANDEZ