

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First of all, I bow my head before God Almighty, for empowering me to complete this thesis in time.

I express my sincere gratitude to my Supervisors Dr.K.M Francis and Dr. Jenson P.O for their profound inspiration, valuable insights and continuous support throughout the study.

I am grateful to Prof.K.C Francis (Head of the Research Department of Economics), Dr.Joby Thomas K(Coordinator, Research Council), all Teaching and non-teaching staff of St. Thomas college for their constant support and encouragement.

Special mention to Dr.K.P Mani (Head of the Department (RTD), Dr. John Mathai center) and Dr.Hemamalini (Assistant professor, Dept of Malayalam, Vimala College) for mentoring and refining me.

I wish to express my Sincere thanks to Dr. Vinod (Asst. librarian, CHMK library) and officials of University of Calicut for the timely help.

Particular thanks must go to my Parents, Dr.Premlal (husband), Arju (brother) and Shankar Abhimanyu (my son) and family members for their unending care and support without whom I couldn't do this work.

I am indebted to the Manager, Principal& Faculty members of Vimala College, Thrissur, for their support and help.

I would like to thank the respondents of Thrissur Corporation and Kavassery Panchayat, Officials of all SC welfare and government departments, SC promoters and all those who helped me in data collection in various ways.

I am also thankful to my friends, fellow research scholars for their moral support extended for doing my thesis.