

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First and foremost, I convey earnest gratitude to my research guide, Dr. Thomas Paul Kattookaran [Vice Principal and Head of the Research Department of Commerce, St. Thomas' College (Autonomous), Thrissur] for his unprecedented caring, exact guidance, constructive criticisms, and selfless commitment, which enabled me to complete my research successfully.

I express my sincere gratitude to the Management of the college [Executive Manager & Bursar: Rev. Fr. Varghese Kuthur)], former Principals (Dr. Jenson P O and Dr. Ignatius Antony), Present Principal: Dr Joy K.L, Vice Principal and Associate Bursar: Rev. Dr. Martin Kolombrath, Vice Principal and Research Council Coordinator: Dr. Joby Thomas Kakkassery and Doctoral Committee members of the college for the provision of all sorts of assistance, support and facilities during the tenure of research.

I am highly grateful to the University Grants Commission (UGC), New Delhi, for awarding me the JRF and SRF for carrying out my research.

I am deeply indebted to Prof. Dr. M. A Joseph, Head of the Department, Commerce and Management Studies, University of Calicut (Subject Expert in the Doctoral Committee) for the valuable directions and comments given during the course of research. I convey my heartfelt gratitude to Prof. Dr. K P Mani, former Head of the Department of Economics, University of Calicut, for the valuable advices and suggestions provided for the enrichment of the research work.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to Prof K. Ravindranath, former Pro-Vice Chancellor of University of Calicut for the support received from him. I am also grateful to Prof. Dr. E.K Satheesh, Prof. Dr.B Johnson, Prof. Dr. B Vijayachandran Pillai and other faculty

members of DCMS, University of Calicut for their valuable comments and suggestions during the different phases of my research work. I also express my gratitude to Dr. M. Nasser, Director of Research, University of Calicut and the entire team working under him for the different sorts of assistance given during the period of research. I acknowledge with gratitude the support received from the University Librarian, Assistant Librarians and staff of C.H Mohammed Koya Library, University of Calicut.

I am grateful to Prof. Dr. Moli. P. Koshy, Prof. Dr. Sam Thomas and Dr. Muhammed Aslam of Cochin University of Science and Technology for the encouragement and support given for research work.

I express my heartfelt thanks to Dr. Vasantha Kumari P (Associate Professor and Head, Department of Commerce, NSS College Ottappalam) for the valuable suggestions.

I acknowledge my gratitude to all the faculty members in the Research Department of Commerce, St Thomas' College (Autonomous), Thrissur for the encouragement and motivation during the tenure of my research. I thankfully memorize the support received from the faculty members, Dr. Paul Jose P, Dr. Biju John M, Prof. Divya George, Prof. Sijo Jacob and other teachers. I record my sincere thanks to the College Librarian Mr. Sanjo Jose, library assistants and ministerial staff of St. Thomas' College (Autonomous), Thrissur for the support extended during my research period.

During the tenure of research, I was fortunate enough to present papers in India's premier management and technology institutes such as IIT Madras, IIT Khargpur and Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), New Delhi. I hereby record my indebtedness to the co-ordinators and reviewers of Management Science and Practice conference (MSP-2016), International Symposium on Frontiers of Infrastructure Finance (ISFIF)-2017,

and Empirical Issues in International Trade & Finance (eIITF) Conference-2018. I thankfully remember the benevolent support I received from the staffs and academicians in Center for Development Studies (CDS)-Thiruvananthapuram, library assistants in CUSAT library, library assistants in MG University library- Kottayam, during my visits to those.

In this context, I memorize and mark my heartfelt thanks to Dr. Bajju George, the former MD of Kochi Smart City Project, for the priceless advices and suggestions received from him. I also wish to record my sincere sense of gratitude to the officials and employees I met, at Kochi Infopark, employees and entrepreneurs at Kakkancheri Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (KINFRA) Park, officials at RBI Kochi regional office for the valuable information received from them with regard to my research topic.

I owe a special sense of gratitude to Dr. Hareesh Kumar AG, Divisional Accounts Officer, Kerala General Service, who was my fellow research scholar, for the endless and priceless supports at all stages of my work. I acknowledge gratitude to Asst Prof. Tom Jacob, (Christ College, Irinjalakuda), who also had been my fellow research scholar. I gratefully remember the co-operation and support extended by my fellow research scholars, Nishija Unnikrishnan, Remya R and Darsana Sudarsan during the course of research.

I thankfully keep in mind the support and encouragement given by my husband Shabeeb E.K, my parents and parents in law, my siblings, other members of my family and my friends for accomplishing this endeavor. Last but not least, I bow my head before the Lord Almighty, for my life and all that's in it.

Febina K