

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I take this opportunity to offer my sincere gratitude and highest respect to the Lord Almighty for assigning this project to me and meticulously taking care of all my needs, giving me the kind of physical and mental strength to complete the research.

With reverence I offer my gratitude to **Sri. T.S. Avinashilingam**, Founder and the First Chancellor, Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women, Coimbatore, for providing this temple of learning to empower women with knowledge.

I record with great respect my deep sense of gratitude to **Dr. (Tmt.) Rajammal P. Devadas**, M.A., M.Sc., Ph.D. (OHIO State), Hon. D.Sc., Hon D.Sc., Former Chancellor, Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women, Coimbatore, for having opened the door to this great Institution and provide an opportunity to pursue my education during her time in a most enriched environment..

I express my gratitude to Chancellor, Padma Shri. **Dr. P.R.Krishna Kumar**, Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women, Coimbatore, for his valuable thoughts and sharing his commendable experience in the field of sustainable practices.

I express my sincere gratitude to **Dr. (Mrs). Premavathi Vijayan**, M.Sc., M.Ed., Dip.Spl.Edn. (UK), M.Phil., Ph.D., Vice Chancellor, Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women, Coimbatore, for her deep concern and facilitate endless support for the timely completion of research.

My sincere thanks to **Dr. (Mrs.). S.Kowsalya**, M.Sc., M.Phil., Ph.D., Registrar, Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women, Coimbatore, for her constant support in all aspects of research

My sincere thanks are due to **Dr. K. Manimozhi**, Controller of Examination, Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women, Coimbatore, for constant support and considerations for completion of the research work.

I express my deep sense of gratitude to **Dr. G.P. Jeyanthi**, Director (Research and Consultancy), Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women, Coimbatore, for professional support and considerations of the aspirations of the scholar to carry out value based quality research.

Investigator expresses her reverential gratitude to **Dr. (Tmt) N. Vasugi Raaja, M.Sc., M.Phil., Ph.D.**, Dean, Faculty of Home Science, Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women, Coimbatore, for her ever readiness to help and support the research cause.

My thanks are also due to **Dr. S. Jaya, M.Ed., Dip. Counselling, M.Phil., Ph.D.** former Professor and Head of the Department of Human Development, Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women, Coimbatore, for offering an opportunity to enter into research and to consolidate my long years of field work into research

The Research Investigator also thanks **Dr, (Mrs) R. Annapoorani, M.A, Dip.Ed, M.Phi., Ph.D.**, Professor, Department of Economics, Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women, Coimbatore, for keeping open the library on Dalit studies and also support and advice rendered in the initial stage of research

My whole hearted sense of gratitude to my guide **Dr. (Mrs) Arockia Maraichelvi, M.Sc, M.Phil , Ph.D., NET.**, Associate Professor, Department of Human Development, Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women, Coimbatore, for her immense support and guidance, Her continuous flow of ideas, timely interventions to carve out the innate potential of the scholar has greatly helped her to successfully complete the study.

The Investigator thanks all the staff in the Department of Human Development, Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women, Coimbatore, for their all time support and considerations.

A very special thanks to **Dr. (Mrs.) Vidya Raju** , Associate Professor and Head of Department of Statistics, Yuvaraja's College University of Mysuru, for all time instantaneous support in the analysis of the data and professional advice

I offers my respects to my beloved parents, for inculcating values and principles of servitude, also thank the family for the constant support, I appreciate the grand children's sense of curiosity to see grandmother at the school, that will be quenched with this research document.

I take this opportunity to thank the **Librarians and all the staff in the Library** of Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women, Coimbatore who was very supportive and helpful to source the required materials.

The Investigator thanks all the faculties of all the departments for their smiles, concern and wishes that has really resulted in successful completion of research. She also thanks the Arunthathiyar community in Coimbatore for giving an opportunity to study their lifestyles and problems.