Acknowledgements

I would like to express my sincere gratitude and deep appreciation to my advisor, Dr. Metta Kuning, for helpful invaluable advice and assistance throughout the completion of the thesis. Thanks also to my co-advisor, Dr. Phattrawan Tongkumchum, for encouragement and suggestions and editing my English. I also wish to thank Assoc.Prof. Dr. Pattamawadee Suzuki and Assoc.Prof. Dr. Penpuck Tongtae for their great comments.

I gratefully thank to Assist. Prof. Piya Kittavorn, the Mother Funding programme staff for their facilitation of the study, and the vulnerable women who participated in this project, Graduate School of Prince of Songkla University for funding this study. I would like to thank all lecturers at Department of Mathematics and Computer Science for their encouragement throughout the study.

Finally, I would like to express my special thanks to my family, siblings and friends for their support and cooperation.

Suhainong Smahoh