CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

ABSTRACT

LIST OF TABLES

CHAPTER 1  INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

1.2 Statement of Problem

1.2.1 Academic Achievement of Tamil Schools

1.2.2 Physical Conditions and Facilities of Tamil Schools

1.2.3 Social and Home Milieu of Tamil-medium Pupils

1.3 Purpose of the Study

1.4 Significance of the Study

CHAPTER 2  REVIEW OF LITERATURE

2.1 Factors Influencing Academic Achievement

2.2 Pupil Factors

2.3 School Factors

2.4 Parental Factors
### CHAPTER 3  RESEARCH METHODOLOGY  

**3.1 Definitions and Operationalization of Variables**  
- **3.1.1 Academic Achievement**  
- **3.1.2 Classification of Socio-economic Status**  
- **3.1.3 The Cattel Culture Fair Intelligence Test (CCFIT)**  
- **3.1.4 Other Pupil Factors**  
- **3.1.5 School Factors**  
- **3.1.6 Parental Factors**  
  
**3.2 The School (PTSSR)**  
- **3.2.1 History of the School**  
- **3.2.2 Academic Achievement of the School**  
- **3.2.3 Pupil, Parental and Teacher Background**  
  
**3.3 Selection of Sample Pupils, Teachers and Parents**  

**3.4 Instruments**  
- **3.4.1 Pupils' Questionnaire**  
- **3.4.2 Teachers' Questionnaire**  
- **3.4.3 Headmaster's Questionnaire**  
- **3.4.4 Parent Interview Schedule**  

**3.5 Pilot Study**
CHAPTER 4 PUPIL FACTORS

4.1 Introduction ................................................. 77
4.2 Academic Achievement of PTSSR
in UPSR .......................................................... 78
4.3 Sex and Academic Achievement ......................... 85
4.4 SES and Academic Achievement .......................... 88
4.5 Intelligence Quotient and
Academic Achievement ..................................... 92
4.6 Kindergarten and
Academic Achievement ..................................... 96
4.7 Frequency of Being Absent from
School and Academic Achievement .................... 100
4.8 Self-perception of Ability in Class
and Academic Achievement .............................. 105
4.9 Tuition and Academic Achievement ................. 110
4.10 Pupils' Academic Aspirations
and Academic Achievement .............................. 113
4.11 Pupils' Occupational Aspirations
and Academic Achievement .............................. 118
5.0 SCHOOL FACTORS

5.1 Introduction .............................................. 123

5.2 Teachers' Professional and Academic Qualifications .................. 123
   5.2.1 Teachers' Professional Qualifications ..................... 125
   5.2.2 Teachers' Academic Qualifications ..................... 125

5.3 Teachers' Experience ....................................... 126

5.4 Workload ................................................... 126

5.5 Classroom Instruction ...................................... 128
   5.5.1 Instructional Planning Stage ............................ 129
   5.5.2 Direct Instructional Stage ............................. 130
   5.5.3 Evaluation ............................................. 135

5.6 Classroom Instruction and Academic Achievement ..................... 137
   5.6.1 Classroom Instruction and Pupil Performance in Tamil (Comprehension) ............................ 137
   5.6.2 Classroom Instruction and Pupil Performance in Tamil (Composition) ............................ 139
   5.6.3 Comparison of PTSSR Performance in Tamil (Comprehension and Composition) ...................... 141
5.6.4 Classroom Instruction and Pupil Performance in Bahasa Malaysia (Comprehension) ................. 144
5.6.5 Classroom Instruction and Pupil Performance in Bahasa Malaysia (Composition) ............. 146
5.6.6 Comparision of PTSSR Performance in Bahasa Malaysia (Comprehension and Composition) 148
5.6.7 Classroom Instruction and Pupil Performance in English Language .............................. 150
5.6.8 Classroom Instruction and Pupil Performance in Mathematics ................................. 153

5.7 Perception of Teachers ............................................. 155
5.8 Perception of the Headmaster ...................................... 157
5.9 School Factors and Achievement ................................. 160

CHAPTER 6 PARENTAL FACTORS ........................................... 163

6.1 Introduction .......................................................... 163
6.2 Perception of Parents .................................................. 164
6.3 Parental Reward for Educational Success and Academic Achievement .......................... 167
6.4 Parental Praise For Educational Success and Academic Achievement ........................ 170
6.5 Parental Encouragement to the Child to Work Hard .................................................. 174
6.6 Parental Knowledge of Pupils' Progress and Academic Achievement .......................... 178
6.7 Parental Reaction to Child's Performance in School and Academic Achievement.............. 183
6.8 Parental Attention to Child's Learning Difficulties and Academic Achievement.......... 187
6.9 Importance of Marks and Academic Achievement........................................... 192
6.10 Importance of Homework and Academic Achievement..................................... 195
6.11 Parental Educational Aspirations for Children and Academic Achievement............. 198
6.12 Parental Occupational Aspirations for Children and Academic Achievement......... 202

CHAPTER 7 CONCLUSION

7.1 Introduction......................................................... 209
7.2 Pupil Factors....................................................... 210
7.3 School Factors..................................................... 213
7.4 Parental Factors.................................................... 215
7.5 Suggestions......................................................... 216
7.6 Direction for Further Research............................................. 227
7.7 Limitation of the Study.............................................. 226
7.8 Concluding Remarks................................................ 228
APPENDIX

A  Pupil Questionnaire.......................... 229
B  The Cattel Culture Fair
   Intelligence Test (CCFIT)..................... 235
C  Teacher Questionnaire......................... 251
D  Headmaster Questionnaire...................... 257
E  Parent's Interview Schedule.................... 261
F  Teaching Practice Evaluation Form............. 266

BIBLIOGRAPHY  269
# LIST OF TABLES

1.1 **Medium of Instruction by Pupil Academic Achievement** ........................................... 9

3.1 **Categorisation of Variables** ................................................................. 55

3.2 **Items and Time Allotted to Each Sub-test in CCFIT, Scale 2** ...................... 59

3.3 **Pupil Achievement in UPSR Examinations by Subjects (1989-1991)** ............... 64

4.1 **Academic Achievement of PTSSR pupils in UPSR, 1991** .................................. 78

4.2 **Academic Achievement of PTSSR Pupils by Subjects in UPSR, 1991** ............... 80

4.3 **Comparison of Percentage Passes in the UPSR Examination of the PTSSR with the National Norm of Tamil Schools, 1991** ............................................ 82

4.4 **Sex by Pupil Academic Achievement in UPSR 1991** ..................................... 85

4.5 **Sex by Pupil Academic Achievement in UPSR Subjects, 1991** ......................... 87

4.6 **Father's Highest Academic Qualification by Pupil Academic Achievement in UPSR, 1991** ................................................................. 89

4.7 **Father's Highest Academic Qualification by Pupil Academic Achievement in UPSR Subjects, 1991** ................................................................. 91

4.8 **Intelligence Quotient (CCFIT) by Pupil Academic Achievement in UPSR, 1991** .... 93

4.9 **Intelligence Quotient (CCFIT) by Pupil Academic Achievement in UPSR Subjects, 1991** ................................................................. 95
4.10 Kindergarten by Pupil Academic Achievement in UPSR, 1991.......................... 97

4.11 Kindergarten by Pupil Academic Achievement in UPSR Subjects, 1991.................. 99

4.12 Frequency of Absence from School by Pupil and Academic Achievement in UPSR, 1991.......................... 101

4.13 Frequency of Absence from School by Pupil and Academic Achievement in UPSR Subjects, 1991.......................... 103

4.14 Self-perception of Ability in Class by Pupil and Academic Achievement in UPSR, 1991.......................... 106

4.15 Self-perception of Ability in Class by Pupil and Academic Achievement in UPSR Subjects, 1991.......................... 108

4.16 Tuition by Pupils' Academic Achievement in UPSR, 1991.......................... 110

4.17 Tuition by Pupils' Academic Achievement in UPSR subjects.......................... 112

4.18 Pupils' Academic Aspirations by Pupils' Academic Achievement in UPSR, 1991........ 114

4.19 Pupils' Academic Aspirations by Pupils' Academic Achievement in UPSR Subjects, 1991.......................... 117

4.20 Pupils' Occupational Aspirations by Pupils' Academic Achievement in UPSR, 1991...... 119

4.21 Pupils' Occupational Aspirations by Pupils' Academic Achievement in UPSR Subjects.......................... 120

5.1 Profile of PTSSR Teachers.......................... 129

5.2 Comparison of Percentage Passes in Tamil (Comprehension) of PTSSR with the National Norm of Tamil Schools.......................... 138
5.3 Comparison of Percentage Passes in Tamil (Composition) of PTSSR with the National Norm of Tamil Schools

5.4 Comparison of Percentage Passes in Tamil (Comprehension) and (Composition) of PTSSR with the National Norm of Tamil Schools

5.5 Comparison of Percentage Passes in Bahasa Malaysia (Comprehension) of PTSSR with the National Norm of Tamil Schools

5.6 Comparison of Percentage Passes in Bahasa Malaysia (Composition) of PTSSR with the National Norm of Tamil Schools

5.7 Comparison of Percentage Passes in Bahasa Malaysia (Comprehension) and (Composition) of PTSSR with the National Norm of Tamil Schools

5.8 Comparison of Percentage Passes in English Language of PTSSR with the National Norm of Tamil Schools

5.9 Comparison of Percentage Passes in Mathematics of PTSSR with the National Norm of Tamil Schools

6.1 Parental Rewards by Pupils' Academic Achievement in UPSR, 1991

6.2 Parental Rewards by Pupils' Academic Achievement in UPSR Subjects, 1991

6.3 Parental Praise for Educational Success and Academic Achievement in UPSR

6.4 Parental Praise for Educational Success and Academic Achievement in UPSR Subjects
6.5 Parental Encouragement of the Child and Academic Achievement in UPSR, 1991......................... 175

6.6 Parental Encouragement of the Child and Academic Achievement in UPSR Subjects, 1991.............. 177

6.7 Parental Knowledge of Pupils' Progress and Academic Achievement in UPSR, 1991..................... 179

6.8 Parental Knowledge of Pupils' Progress and Academic Achievement in UPSR Subjects, 1991............... 181

6.9 Parental Reaction to Children's Performance in School and Academic Achievement in UPSR, 1991........ 183

6.10 Parental Reaction to Children's Performance in School and Academic Achievement in UPSR Subject, 1991... 186

6.11 Parental Attention to Child's Learning Difficulties and Academic Achievement in UPSR, 1991........... 188

6.12 Parental Attention to Child's Learning Difficulties and Academic Achievement in UPSR Subjects, 1991..... 190

6.13 Importance of Marks and Academic Achievement in UPSR, 1991........................................ 192

6.14 Importance of Marks and Academic Achievement in UPSR Subjects, 1991............................... 194

6.15 Importance of Homework and Academic Achievement in UPSR, 1991..................................... 195

6.16 Importance of Homework and Academic Achievement in UPSR Subjects, 1991............................ 197

6.17 Parental Educational Aspirations for Children and Academic Achievement in UPSR, 1991............... 199
6.18 Parental Educational Aspirations for Children and Academic Achievement in UPSR Subjects, 1991

6.19 Parental Occupational Aspirations for Children and Academic Achievement in UPSR, 1991

6.20 Parental Occupational Aspirations for Children and Academic Achievement in UPSR Subjects, 1991