

## ABSTRACT

This dissertation is a study of the liner freight market between Colombo and Chennai and ultimately in the forecasting of the freight rates in this market in view of the examining of the determinants of supply and demand. A literature review related to freight forecasting is examined. Particularly, the market model and freight rate model have been scrutinized. Based on this foundation, forecasting work is done.

The characteristics and overview of the liner freight market are described and determinants which affect the demand and supply of the market are identified and analyzed. Practical work is done by applying multiple regression forecasting methods to forecast the freight rates of the liner freight market in Colombo Chennai sector. The concluding chapter identifies the recommendations of the dissertation with regard to data, methods and approaches.

**Keyword:** *liner freight market, Colombo Chennai sector, freight rate models, parameters, demand, supply, linear regression.*

