ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I express my sincere and whole-hearted thanks, first and foremost, to my scholarly Guide and Supervisor Dr. K. Sadasivan, formerly Professor and Head, Department of History, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli. His outstanding intellect, creativity, originality, rational outlook, critical perspectiveness and inclination towards Periyar’s rationalist ideologies formed the foundation for this research work. The frequent deliberations with him on different aspects of women and critical interpretations of Periyar’s ideologies inspired me to probe deep into the study. His stimulating, enriching, constant encouragement, thought provoking and enlightening suggestions at the different stages of progress in the present work helped me to design the study in its present form. His scholarly and untiring assistance and care are always ever green in my mind. The deliberation with him enabled me to have clear idea on the subject without any doubt and it widened the horizons of my knowledge. It was really a fruitful and enlightening experience.

I extend my sincere thanks to the authorities of U.G.C and the members of Syndicate of the Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli for having permitted me to do research in this topic under the Faculty Improvement Programme. I express my gratitude to the staff of the Research Section and College Development Section, ManonmaniamSundaranar University, for their ready help.

I express my heartfelt thanks to the former Principals of Sri Parasakthi College for Women, Autonomous, Courtallam, Dr. V. Sasikala, Dr. O. Anandavalli and the present Principal Dr. R. Raja Rajeshwari and the present Secretary Thiru. Anbumani for their help and permission in pursuing this research work.
I also thank the former Head of the Department of History of the University, Dr. Desair and the former Head of the Department of Sri Parasakthi College, Mrs. S. Saroja and the present Head, Department of History of the University, Dr. Maria John for their concern and constant encouragement in completing this work. I also thank all the colleagues in my Department and the Staff members of History Department in M.S. University for their help.

I also record my deep sense of gratitude to Prof. Rajadurai, Chairperson of Periyar Chair, Bharathidasan University for his suggestions. I express my sincere thanks to Dr. B. S. Chandra Babu and Dr. C. Paramarthalingam of Madurai Kamaraj University for their valuable suggestions.

My sincere thanks are due to the librarians and staff of Madurai Kamaraj University, M.S. University, Tirunelveli, Madras University, Connemara Public Library and also the librarians of Adyar Besant Library, Madras. I profusely thank Dr. M. Sundara Raj and Subramani, Librarians, Tamil Nadu State Archives Library and the authorities and staff of Research Hall, Tamil Nadu State Archives, Egmore. My special thanks are due to Govindan, Librarian of Periyar Library, Periyar Thidal for having provided the relevant source materials needed for my research work.

I express my deep sense of gratitude to my brothers Mr. Sakthivel Murugan and Mr. S. Saravana Kumar, mother, S. Dhanalakshmi, daughter K. Aishwarya and son K. Ruban for their co-operation, motivation, help and encouragement to complete this research work.

I express my heartfelt thanks to Mrs. Hemamalini, Head and Associate Professor, Department of English, Sri Parasakthi College for Women, for improving my work by doing English correction.

Place :

Date : S. AMIRTHAVALLI