

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

At this moment of accomplishment, I deem it my duty to remember all those who have been behind me in this endeavour. My parents who had valued education and research, had instilled the spirit of inquiry, which made me to take up this study.

I record with gratitude, the immense support of my Research Guide and Supervisor **Dr. Premila Bhaskar, M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D.**, without whose motivation and encouragement I would not have proceeded with this study.

I thank all the former Principals and Heads of Department of English, who helped me with the conduct of this research. I owe a special thanks to our Principal Dr. (Mrs.) R.Akthar Begum, M.Com., M.Phil., Ph.D., and our Head, Department of English, Dr. (Mrs.) P. Kulalmolial, M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D., of Queen Mary's College for the help rendered during the research.

I will be failing in my duty, if I do not acknowledge the support extended by my colleagues, Dr. Usha George, Dr.V.Sujatha Menon, Mrs.M.Megala Devi, Mrs.I.G.Aruna Rani, Mrs.N.Balambigai, Dr.G.Sadhana, Dr.Maria Preethi Srinivasan and others who gave me the much needed moral strength. I thank Mrs.S.Amutha daughter of Mr.Su.Samuthiram ,who gave a copy of the text and valuable suggestions regarding her father's work.

The research would not have been possible but for my family. My daughters Dr.P.Prashitha, Mrs.P.Abitha and Mrs.V.Niyatha made available all the relevant support books I needed for my study from America. My aunt Mrs.S.Sumetha provided me relief from my

household chores to execute this work.

Dr.P.Usha Kalyani my elder sister provided me with all the medical information and books for this study about transgenders and goaded me to take up this study. Words prove inadequate to thank the support of my younger sister Mrs.P.Niranjini who was the backbone of this work rendering physical, material and moral support. My brother-in-law Dr.D.Narasimhan, my son Adhan and my sister Mrs.P.Sujatha have to be thanked for their continuous encouragement and support. Finally, I should acknowledge, that I would not have taken up this research but for my husband Mr. R.Vijayaraghavan who is my source of strength, nudging me into action whenever I slackened and providing me with a very happy environment to accomplish this task. I thank all the people who helped me in printing and in bringing out this dissertation.

**P.VASANTHALAKSHMI**