Acknowledgements

I’m so grateful to Ms. P.Radhika for being friendly and sisterly, encouraging me throughout this work providing necessary suggestions as my research supervisor. Prof. Rajan Gurukkal, Director, School of Social Sciences, has been a great resource for long discussions of contemplation, and without his support at the final stages, this work might not have been finished promptly; I’m extremely thankful to him. Gratifying is the encouragement from the other faculties Dr. T.S. Girish Kumar, Dr. K.T. Rammohan, Dr.S. Raju, Dr.P.Sanal Mohan and Mr. Rajesh Komath at the department. I would like to express my gratitude towards all my friends at the department, especially my fellow researchers, M.Phil batch-2001 with whom I attended the research methodology course, and the people at the library, office and computer centre.

Commendable are the discussions organized by Dr. Brahmaputhran as part of Prayoga Trust, which facilitated me to find the new way of teaching-learning experience in philosophy of which I was in search and with which I initiated my research aspirations. I thank Dr. T.K. Nizar Ahmed whom I met at the discussions and conversed my thoughts at the beginning stages of the research. Insightful was his introduction of debates in methodology, during the course at School of Social Sciences. Thanks to Dr. J. Devika for the encouragements at the beginnings.

I have no words to explain my thankfulness towards Dr. Anna Lindberg for the inspiration and resources she extended towards my work and life. The intellectual
and emotional discussions on the days we spent together during her visits to Kerala, with the project of Lund University, Sweden, gave me laudable ideas and confidence about doing feminist research. She provided me with sturdy support and care, even sometimes like a ‘friend-mother’. Dr. Diane Jennet has to be remembered for hosting me in San Francisco, extending my exposure visit to USA and strengthening my views by open discussions. Thanks to South Asia Council due to the fellowship with which I could travel to USA and participate at the Association for Asian Studies Conference-2006 as a researcher, to present a paper at the ‘Methodology of Gender’ panel. And my intense thankfulness, towards the Rock Ethics Women`s Group-especially Dr. Roselyn Costantino- at Penn State University who arranged my talk at the Women`s Month celebration session- March 2006, is enormous as that exposure could inflate my research topic as well. Genial thanks to Sinan Hosaden, a research student then at City University of New York, for hosting me there and showing me the wonders around the ‘research and life’ at the university in United States.

Paper Presentations at North Bengal University and Delhi University for the 80th and 81st sessions of Indian Philosophical Congress- 2005&2006 were cheering for my research interests. Dr. M.Ramakrishnan, Dr.Vijaya Kumari, Dr. Chandni.P.K, Dr.K.M Jose and Dr. Jijo Panjikkaran at the Department of Philosophy, Govt. Brennen College have extensively encouraged the fulfillment of my work on the thesis; my hearty thanks to them. I`m grateful to Dr. G. Padmakumar and Dr. P.V. Unnikrishnan too, who motivated me to finish the work on the thesis rapidly.
I’m grateful to Dr. K.K.Hariharan, Dr.S. Umadevi and Dr. Muthulakshmi for giving me insights in Sanskrit language and the texts concerned. I express my gratitude towards Dr. D.D Nampoothiri, Dr. M.R. Raghava Warrier, Dr. Kesavan Veluthattu and Fr. J.C. Manalel, for raising comments and informing suitable refernce materials with which I could apposite this work at the final stages.

Dr.C.Bindu, who was then a research fellow at the Philosophy department of Calicut University while I was finishing PG and thinking of doing research on this topic, is unforgettable being my best friend. Bindu and Beena along with their amma had been incredible emotional support for me. Girija, Moly, Haseena and Kalitha were always compassionate friends caring my works and life. Ushachechi, Jayanchettan, Lathachechi and Unnichettan are remembered always, for their supports in my life and research intentions while I worked with their projects. The company of Bindu Menon, Reshma Bharadwaj, Geetha Devi, Deepa Nair, Daya and Geedha were nice at different times during the university life. Emily, Binur and Linda, proved to me exceptional friends as to appreciate my research interest in feminism, being foreign students who happened to be in Kerala to see the gender blindness in the society. Remarkable is the feminist activism and related reserve, which gave me confidence to move forward with my ideas of life and learning and which caused me the feeling to explore more about feminism as an academic discipline. Ajitha and others at Anweshi Women’s Counseling Centre; Eliyamma and others at Sakhi Women`s Resource Centre/ Streevedi, Jayasree and Maithreyan; Elizabeth and Ramki were good at discussing subjects and issues on gender.
Though all the names are not mentioned here I recall all my friends and relatives, and thank all of them cordially who contributed massively to keep my enthusiasm, being dear and near to me. Jovial gratitude towards Sajith Malliyoor for reading the whole thesis and checking up my language and typing errors. And, I express my affectionate appreciation to my sister Meera, brother-in-law Dilip and Parthan kunju; aunt Savithrichamma, cousin Unnyettan, Sreeja and Avinash kunju; who have been always attentive to my research life.