I take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks and deep sense of gratitude to **Dr. R. Kannan**, Senior Professor and Head, Co-ordinator of UGC - SAP - DRS II Phase Programme, Department of Sociology, Member Syndicate Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai, who has been not only the source of inspiration but also has supervised this work and encouraged me. Without his diligence and constant support, encouragement and guidance, this work could not have been completed.

I immensely thank to **Dr. I. Singaram**, Senior Professor, Department of Sociology, Madurai Kamaraj University for his valuable suggestions during the course of writing the thesis.

I enormously thank **Dr. L. Thara Bhai**, Former Senior Professor and Head, Department of Sociology, Madurai Kamaraj University and **Dr. R. Mangayarkarasu**, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Madurai Kamaraj University who helped me in all possible ways.

I am also thankful to **Dr. C. Karuppaiah**, Associate Professor, **Dr. A. Vijayarangan**, Assistant Professor, **Dr. B. Geetha**, Assistant Professor, **Dr. M. Buvaneswaran**, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai **Dr. R. M. Muthu**, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Periyar University, Salem and **Office staff** who helped me in the progress of my thesis.

The assistance and co-operation extended by the officials of the **Madurai Builders Association** in my study area are gratefully acknowledged for providing essential information.

I thank the Librarians of **Madurai Kamaraj University**, Madurai, **Kannimara Library**, Chennai, **Annamalai University Library**, Annamalai Nagar, **Pondicherry Central University Library**, Jawaharlal Nehru University and **University of Delhi, Central Secretariat Library** for having provided books, materials and necessary information.
I place on record the love and gratitude that I cherish concerning the **Respondents** of Madurai City who co-operated with me in all possible ways and contributed a lot for the successful completion of my data collection during the field work.

I am grateful to **Ms.P.Vijayalakshmi**, **Dr.T.Murugesan**, **Mr.D.Thirumalraja**, **Mr.P.SethurajaKumar**, **Mrs.T.Geetha**, **Mr.P.Palpandi**, Research Scholars, Department of Sociology, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai. My Special thanks to **Mr.A.Jeyapandi**, Chennai for his timely help in the course of my research.

I owe everything in my life to my father **Thiru.K.Maduraiveeran** who sacrificed so much in his life for my well-being, who helped me to finish the work as early as possible.

I express my immense thanks to **Mr. P. Bala**, typist, Sri Balaji Laser Printing, Nagamalai for his excellent work in the execution of the thesis.

(M.Pitchairani)

**CONTENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>List of Tables</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>List of Diagrams</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List of Maps</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Chapter** | **Particulars** | **Page No.**