

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The work presented in this thesis would not have been possible without my close association with many people. I take this opportunity to extend my sincere gratitude and appreciation to all those who made this PhD thesis possible.

First and foremost, I would like to thank my research supervisor, Prof. K. Krishnan for his advice, encouragement, dedicated help, inspiration and most importantly for allowing me to grow as a researcher, in my own time and on my own terms.

A work like this is impossible without having the financial support. I am gratefully acknowledging The University Grants Commission for providing me fellowship for a period of five years in the pursuit of this research.

Various institutions and departments generously provided the information on my request, which are relevant to different aspects of the research. They include NCLHR, Male, University of Kelaniya and Archaeological Survey of India. I express my sincere my gratitude to all the staff of these institution. I would like to give special mention to Dr. Usha Sharma, Director General, Archaeological Survey of India, Prof Anura Manatunga, Ms. Naseema Mohammed, Dr. P Raghupathy, Ms. Shiura Jaufar, Mr. Ahmed Tholal, and Mr Abdu Samadhu for their valuable support.

I also would like to thank Prof P. Ajithprasad, Head of the Department, Department of Archaeology and Ancient History, teaching and non-teaching staff of the department for their constant support during the pursuit of my PhD. I am also indebted to the teaching and non-teaching faculty of the I also have been privileged to have had generous and warm support of my friends include Dr.Vrushab Mahesh, Mr.Ritwik Balwally, Mr.Srisamardh, Mr.Aditya Singh, Mr Bhakti Gohil, Mr Avinandan Mukherji and Dr. Oishi Roy

My special words of thanks should also go to Mr. Janhwij Sharma, Additional Director General, Archaeological Survey of India and Mr. Manojkumar B (*Maashettan*), Department of Political Science, Govt. College, Nattakom for acting as my constant support ever since I began writing my thesis.

I am extremely grateful to Mr Rakes S R, Surveyor and Ms Lekshmi, Draughtsperson, Archaeological Survey of India, Thrissur circle in preparing the maps and figures that are used in this thesis and also my colleagues Ms. Ranimole, Ms. Gangadevi, Ms.Vijimol P K ,Ms Kavitha C S, Mr Vinuraj R, Mr.Vinojkumar,Mr Rajan K P, Mr. C Kumaran, Mr Rahul for their valuable support during my work. I am also indebted to Bindu Maam, Kannan and

Malu for the kind hospitality, love and care shown during the final stages of the thesis writing. Many thanks to all of you.

Thanks to Sundaram Digital, Vadodara especially to Yogesh Bhai for assistance in formatting and printing the thesis.

I was disoriented several times when I was engaged in conducting my PhD research project due to various reasons. In such instances, the persons who reoriented me were Dr. Hemachandran S, Dr Ajitkumar, Mr Jacob Kunnath, Dr Venugopal and Mr Prathapachandran S. I owe you all for your patience and constant support.

I would also like to thank my friends to whom I shared my moments of frustration and fun .I would like to mention Muhammed Ajmal E, Sajish, Karthika Thampan, Joseph Mangadan, Binu Mathew, V V Sureshkumar, Dhinil C A, K R Manoj, Ranjini Krishnan, Shiny, Anuraj K A, Sreelatha Damodaran, Mohamed A, Reji Dev, Vishnu Sreevalsan, Sandhyechi, Lajith V S, Sindhu Maria Napoleon, Maya Pramod, Mriduladevi Sasidharan, Remya Raj, Dhanya Madhav Chandran Komath, Senthil Rajan, Sindhu M J, Gaia Ubuntu, Oru Zorboid, Sanaj, Biju Balakrishnan, Rinju, Sandeep, Gopinath Parayil, Riyas Aami Abdulla, Jithendran, Injippennu, K J Siju and many more

I cannot put into words my gratitude to my family members Mr. V V Devakumar, Ms. Kavitha S Kumar( *Tinku*), Nila, Sangeet Unni(*Appu*) ,Benoy V Dev( *Kunjaanja*), Sherine ( *Nathoone*) and daughter Arathi M R who bore all the good and bad they faced during my research work. Their patience during my physical and mental absences has been nothing short of incredible and whose support and encouragement in so many ways have helped me finally reach the successful end of the journey.

Last but not the least I would like to dedicate this work to my late mother Mrs. Sumathy C A whose dreams for me have resulted in this achievement and without her unflinching insistence and support my dreams of excelling in education would have remained mere dreams

If I have left anyone out, I sincerely apologize, but know that my thanks go out to you as well.

Smitha S Kumar