

## **DEDICATION**

This thesis is dedicated to my beloved mother, late Reene Susan Varkey, a woman of substance who has inspired many lives. Her love for reading books and progressive mindset were ahead of her time. She had a natural empathy for other's needs and fearlessly fought for what she believed in. I also want to honor the incredible women in my family, whose strength and intelligence have shaped my worldview in profound ways.

I also want to express my gratitude to my dearest grandparents, late K.M. Mathew and Shanthamma Mathew. Their unwavering love and dedication laid the foundation for who I am today. Throughout my upbringing, they were my rock, always ensuring I had the support and resources I needed. This thesis is dedicated to their memories with deep appreciation for the pivotal role they played in shaping my life.