Acknowledgement

I am extremely delighted to place on record a few words of gratitude that I owe to the people who have helped me all through this research work. I thank Lord Almighty for giving me strength and health of body and mind, and for those who have given me guidance, counsel, and advice and good example. I am intensely obliged to my late parents who had made every effort to make me what I am today.

I remain continually grateful to the support of Rev. Fr Anil Jose, Dr Sr Soosamma Kavumpurath, and Dr Noel Jose, the Manager, the Principal, and the Vice Principal respectively of Fatima Mata National College, Kollam.

This doctoral thesis would not have been materialized but for the intelligent guidance of my supervisor, Dr Thampi Mathew. I am profoundly indebted to him for initiating me into the arena of research. He was very generous with his time and knowledge, and helped me in every phase of this research.

I owe a special debt of gratitude to Dr Sebastian Irudaya Rajan, Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram, for encouraging me to look into the health aspects of international migration. I would like to acknowledge the help rendered by the deputy librarian and the staff of the Kerala University Library, Thiruvananthapuram. Thanks are due to Dr Amrith Lal for his valuable suggestions on the structured survey schedule.

For constructing the sampling frame and for locating the return emigrants, I have relied extensively upon the information given by the office bearers of various Pravasi Malayali Associations and elected representatives of local bodies. I am extremely grateful to them for their generous help. Although I cannot mention the names of the respondents of sample survey, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to them for their invaluable cooperation and genuine responses. Thanks to Mr Dipin Raj, Mr Jose E. Peters, and Mr C. Ratheesh for assisting me throughout the data collection stage. I am grateful to Prof. Xavier K.V. for his helpful comments. I owe much gratitude to my colleagues and friends for their constant encouragement and help.

I would like to offer my deepest gratitude to my wife, Shyni, and my two sons, Abhinand and Ashish, for their forbearance during the course of my research.

Titus A. R.