ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I express my sincere thanks to Dr. K.M. Seethi, Dean of Social Sciences and Professor, School of International Relations and Politics (SIRP), Mahatma Gandhi University, who has been my guide and supervisor in completing this study. I am indebted to Dr. Raju K. Thadikkaran, Director, SIRP and other faculty members of the School. I must also thank Prof. A.K. Ramakrishnan (Jawaharlal Nehru University), Prof. K.S. Pavithran (University of Calicut), Dr. Shaji Varkey (University of Kerala), Shri. Sunny M. Kapikkad, Shri. C.R. Bijoy, Dr. Gail Omvedt and many others in Kerala and elsewhere who helped me different ways.

I gratefully acknowledge the help rendered by Mrs. C.K. Janu and Shri. M. Geethanandan, the leaders of the Adivasi Gothra Maha Sabha, Shri. C.J. Thankachan, Shri. E.K. Kumaran, Shri. Haridas, Shri. Vinu, Shri. Aneesh, Shri. Janardhanan, Shri. Baburaj, Shri. Suresh Shri. Muthattil, Shri. Thekkam Sunil and other members of the Gothra Maha Sabha. I am also indebted to the tribal communities in Wayanad and other places who provided me a lot of help in completing the study.

I am also grateful to the librarian and other staff of the SIRP who helped me wholeheartedly. In the course of my research work, the libraries and institutions of Mahatma Gandhi University, KIRTHADS, Kozhikode, Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram, University of Hyderabad, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Shreyas (A nongovernmental organisation, Sulthan Bathery, Wayanad), Tribal Resettlement and Development Mission, Government of Kerala, Collectorate, Wayanad, Office of the Minister for Scheduled Tribe, Government of Kerala, State Public Information Officer, Office of the Scheduled Tribe Development, Govt of Kerala, etc have been the main sources of information and data. Almost all the primary sources used in this study have been collected from these institutions and I am immensely grateful to those who are in charge of the sections, the faculty and library staff of the institutions mentioned above.

I am also thankful to my friends and colleagues in Mahatma Gandhi University and the University of Calicut for sharing their thoughts and insights. I place on record my gratitude to my family for their patience and constant encouragement. I would also express my thanks to my friends and well wishers for helping me to do the final work and M/s Minitek Computers, Athirampuzha for word processing.

SUNIL KUMAR K.