Preface

There is an inextricable inter relationship between culture and health of any community. Health care system is amazingly advancing in modern times. But certain sections of the population of India, nay, the world over are averse in availing themselves of the advancement due to various reasons, interalia, cultural barriers.

Even in Kerala a state which is at the forefront of rational thinking and practices culture is very much modulating health care. This is particularly true in the case of rural community. This researcher has formulated a strong conceptual framework, which indicates the influence of culture on the beliefs, awareness and practices relating to the health care of rural community of Kerala. This background gave impetus for the formulation of this study and conducting it. The empirical part of the study was carried out in the rural areas of Malabar region of the state. Malabar region was chosen for the reason that rural characteristics are more prevalent here than the rural sides of other parts of the state reflect.

The thesis is prepared in ten chapters. The first chapter states the problem and reveals the rationale behind the study. The second and third chapters respectively discuss the literature analysis and methodology of the study. The fourth chapter named as Research Setting portrays the physical,
demographic and cultural profiles of the study area. The next five chapters are analyses chapters. The fifth chapter gives an overview of the sanitation condition of the study area based on the primary data. Of the rest of the chapters, sixth, seventh and eighth respectively analyse the inter-relationship between culture and beliefs, awareness and practices relating to the various aspects of health. The ninth chapter contains five case analyses which also reveal the inter relationship between the two profiles of the rural community. The final chapter summarises the results and interpret them.

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