PREFACE

This work is an attempt to study politics and the way in which it affects the implementation of developmental programmes in Kerala with a special reference to literacy programme in Ernakulam and Palakkad districts. It highlights politics in the wider context and social change and development generated by the literacy movement in the state. The importance of this study lies in how modern literacy development in the state of Kerala has evolved historically by interacting with various forces and communities and finally brought about a social development which is something unique in India. This topic deserves closer study and examination because literacy is the beginning of discoveries and inventions as well as the social progress of man. This venture is in the wake of my observation that no systematic study has been made on this particular problem.

This thesis consists of Seven chapters including Conclusion. The first Chapter being introduction deals with the problem, setting, objectives of the study, concepts used, conceptual framework, approaches followed in this study, methodology, nature and sources of data and scope and relevance of the problem. Chapter second titled, "Politics, Social Change and Development of Literacy in Kerala: A Background", deals with the politics, multifarious facets of social change and the totality of development of society which have come about as a result of politics and social change. This chapter emphasises
that literacy development in Kerala has assumed various phases, finally leading to a peculiar development of society. Chapter three gives an account of profile of Ernakulam and Palakkad districts, without which the study of literacy and related social development in these two districts would have become impossible. The effectiveness of the implementation of any programme, in turn, depends on people's initiative, of which the social composition of a particular region plays a predominant role.

“Implementation of Literacy Programme in Ernakulam District” is the fourth Chapter which deals with the various techniques used by the organisers of the movement to implement literacy programme in Ernakulam. It focuses attention on the interaction of masses with the voluntary organisation, intellectuals, scientists and officials of the district administration and the effectiveness of the implementation of the programme as a result of these developments. Political and social context which enabled the movement to become a temporary success is examined in detail with help of interviews, observation and discussions with neo-literates. Chapter five titled, “Literacy Programme in Palakkad District: An Analysis” examines the implementation of literacy programme in socially backward district of Palakkad as a part of state wide programme initiated by Kerala government. This chapter sheds light on the ineffectiveness of the movement in this district and the various reasons which have led to its failure. Finally, Post script is given
as a part of evaluation of the success and failure of the implementation process of the literacy programme in these two districts. Post script is a mini chapter because the goal of the researcher is to give a concise and comprehensive picture of a critical evaluation of the implementation of this programme. The final Chapter is the conclusion which gives summary of the finding of this thesis.