PREFACE

Industrial progress in our state of Kerala has failed to keep pace with the planning programmes. Living in an age when the strength and wealth of the nation is measured in terms of industrial advancement, the above sorry state of affairs is anybody’s concern. Industry and trade unionism grew side by side in their early stages in Kerala. At some stage trade unions started overtaking the industry and the growth ceased being steady and healthy. The ultimate result has been a lethargy in the whole industrial scene, paralysing many a unit and paving onset of a trend of decay.

The study is intended to understand the role played by trade unions in leading the industry backwards and the dynamics to be applied to the trade unions to reshuffle and invigorate them in a manner they can put the industry back in right track. Emphasis on reformation of the trade unions is not to underestimate the degenerating role of management and other elements whose dubious games catalysed aggravation of the situation.

It is fortunate that the Father of our Nation had the foresight to visualise the problems of capital and labour and wisdom to experiment with various solutions in the same spirit and pattern in which he experimented with truth. In this study we find that his wonderful results aptly fit in to many of the lacunae left between these factors of production. This perfect harmony achieved through truth and non violence will be a deadly blow to evil divisive forces waiting for a permanent rift between capital and labour. Any girth between
them have to be filled with mutual trust, spirit of fraternity and an urge for peaceful progress, in confidence, the study concludes.

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Priyadarsini Hills
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Molly Varghese