PREFACE

During the era of freedom struggle national leaders like Mahatma Gandhi realized that the colonial education was not keeping with the changing needs of the Indian society, as a result becoming irrelevant. He stressed the need for radical reforms and advocated that learning through practical work in the field was the best experience for students. Several Commissions and Study teams constituted by the Government of free India, from time to time, also accepted the Gandhian ideas that some form of service as part of regular education would change the character of seclusion that have grown in the educational system over the years. Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India, realized that the youth of the country is more powerful than the atomic force for the welfare of the society and gave a call to the nation to involve the youth in the social welfare activities. This was the formative period of a nation, a nation in the making. In response to his call, the work camps were conducted, during the period of summer vacation, involving the student youth. The Kothari Commission recommended the introduction of national service, as an integral part of higher education, which would run concurrently with academic studies. The Government of India after detailed studies and necessary consultatios at different levels finally implemented the scheme in colleges on a selective cum voluntary basis along with their studies, in 1969.

Any on-going scheme needs periodic assessment and evaluation in order to establish its credibility, progress and to strengthen the quality and efficiency
of its functioning. This is all the more true in the case of a large scale, national level service-cum-educational programme as the National Service Scheme. A vast resource materials, time, funds and human effort are invested in this mammoth task, which needs to justify invest on the scheme. Hence this evaluative study, A History of National Service Scheme in Kerala.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to acknowledge the valuable contributions made by scholars, activists, administrators and practitioners of the National service scheme, in this endeavour. At the very outset I extend the deepest sense of my gratitude to Dr. T. Jamal Mohammed, who was really my friend, philosopher and Guide to make this research project a reality. I am obliged to Prof. Suresh Jnaneswar Head, Department of History for the help rendered to me in the course of my research works. This effort of mine could see the light of the day only due to the inspirations and encouragement given to me by Mr. P.K. Mohammed former Programme Co-ordinator and Mr. I.V. Soman Programme Co-ordinator, NSS Training and Orientation Centre, Rajagiri college of social sciences, Kalamessery, Ernakulam. This work was initiated at the instance of my wife Mrs. Pathumma K. C., HSA, Government Higher secondary school, Pookkottur, Malappuram. I am very grateful to the Librarian and staff of the Kerala University Library and Research Centre, for facilitating me access to all the necessary study materials and documents. I am deeply
indebted to Dr. C. Thomas Abraham former Programme Coordinator, NSS, M. G. University, Kottayam for his enlightening pieces of advice.

I acknowledge the guidance of Professor (Dr) K. N. Panikkar, the eminent historian, Chairman Kerala Council for Historical Research and Dr. C.V. Cherian, Director of K.C.H.R, who enlightened me on the subject. I am deeply obliged to Prof. E.P. Imbichikoya, Principal, Farook College and Mr. M. Ayub, Farook College Librarian for their motivation and soft compulsion to undertake research. My thanks are due to Dr. H.S. Suresh, Assistant Programme Advisor (in charge) of Kerala and Lakshadweep, Dr. Samuel Chelliah, Senior Youth Officer and Mr. Krishnan, Youth Assistant, NSS Regional Centre, Ministry of Youth Affairs, Government of India, at the NSS Regional Centre, Thiruvananthapuram. I sincerely remember the fruitful interactions with NSS Programme Coordinators, Programme Officers and Volunteers who facilitated me the field experience. I owe my heartfelt thanks to Dr. P. B. Sudev, Population Research Centre, University of Kerala for his help in analyzing the data on the NSS of Kerala. It will be unfair if I am not registering my gratitude to Prof. Sobhindran ‘the Green Man’, who was the NSS State Awardee and the National Vrikshamitra Awardee. I am happy to thank Prof. Salihu, former Programme Co-Ordinator NSS and former Vice-Chancellor of Madurai Kamaraj University. Dr. S. Saraswathi and Mrs. Sarumati RGNIYD, Sriperumbudur, were highly useful to me in sharing their experience on the NSS of Kerala. Though last but not least, my whole
hearted thanks are due to all those who extended their best for completing this multi disciplinary work.

Thiruvananthapuram
31 October 2013

ALASSAN KUTTY.P