ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The doctoral thesis entitled “HISTORY OF TOURIST CENTRES IN KANYAKUMARI DISTRICT WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO ITS IMPACT ON CULTURE” is an attempt to analyse and find out the historic significance of tourism and its impact on the evolution of culture. It undertakes a comprehensive study of the physical and geographical features of Kanyakumari district. Special effort has been made to highlight the social, economic and cultural impact of tourism in and around the Kanyakumari district with particular reference to the religious moments and pilgrim centres.

Though the tourist attractions of Kanyakumari district have been attempted by several scholars a detailed study of the cultural, social and economic impact of tourism on this region has not been made so far. Hence, the present study has been undertaken. It highlights the systematic account of the multifarious activities in association with tourism in Kanyakumari district. Inheriting the rich cultural heritage in the annals of commercial, maritime and religious history of Tamilnadu, Kanyakumari emerged as a citadel of culture and civilization. The study also evaluates the positive and negative impact of tourism in Kanyakumari district.

The study is largely based on the original documents collected from the Tamilnadu State Archives, Chennai, Kerala State Archives, Trivandrum, District Library, Nagercoil, N.M. Christian College Library, Marthandam and
University Library, Tirunelveli. The primary sources are further supplemented by the secondary sources including the published records like census reports, encyclopaedias, journals, gazetteers, manuals, proceedings, published books and dissertations.

In this endeavour several people from different walks of life have helped me in complete this work successfully. Firstly I thank GOD ALMIGHTY who showed his blessing, strength, wisdom and support that enabled me to undertake higher studies and also to complete my Ph.D course successfully.

In fulfilling this task, I am deeply indebted to my revered supervisor Dr. A. RAJA THANGAM, M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D., Assoicate Professor, PG & Research Department of History, N.M. Christian College, Marthandam, Kanyakumari district. His valuable suggestions and help in times of difficulties made the completion of the work in its present form. His wide experience, devoted service, encouragement, comments and directions helped immensely in making this work more analytical and comprehensive. Hence, I record my sincere and heartful thanks to him.

Several persons have given me valuable assistance in the preparation of this thesis. I am beholden to Dr. T.S. EMMANUEL, M.A., Ph.D. Head, PG & Research Department of History, N.M. Christian College, Marthandam. I express my thanks to our beloved principal Dr. THAMPI THANKAKUMARAN, M.Sc., M.Phil., Ph.D, N.M. Christian College, Marthandam. I also convey my sincere thanks to all the faculty members of the Department of History, N.M. Christian
College, Marthandam, who have given a better understanding of the problems of the area under study.

I record my deep gratitude to the loving encouragement and financial support that I received from my parents Mr. C. Thaveethu, Mrs. C. Annammal, my husband Mr. R. Rajesh and my beloved children R.F. Hebzin, R.F. Hezbibah and R.F. Sharon, my brothers T.A. Edwin Sam and T.A. Alwin Sam.

I convey my sincere thanks to the staff members of the Directorate of Tamilnadu State Archives, Madras, Kerala State Archives, Trivandrum, the Archaeological Department, Tourism Department, Nagercoil, University Library, Trivandrum, Palayam Public Library, Scott Christian College Library, Nagercoil and N.M. Christian College Library, Marthandam for providing me with the needed facilities to refer the relevant books and records.

I express my hearty thanks to the staff members of the Cherenjana Computers, Kaliakkavilai for the neat execution of the work.

T.A. FEMILA