

## PREFACE

With immense gratitude, I thank my research guide **Dr.J.Albaris**, PG & Research Department of History, Alagappa Government Arts College, Karaikudi for his constant guidance and valuable suggestions.

I regard my reverential gratitude to the Vice Chancellor, Registrar, Dean for Research and the Controller of Examinations, Alagappa University, Karaikudi for having given me an opportunity to do this research.

I sincerely thank **Dr.P.Venkatesan**, Associate Professor and Head, PG & Research Department of History Alagappa Government Arts College, Karaikudi for his valuable suggestions.

I record my heartfelt thanks to the officials of National Archives, New Delhi, Tamil Nadu State Archives, Egmore, Chennai and Madurai Archives for their valuable help in collecting my source materials.

I am very much thankful to the officials of Department of Tourism, Government of TamilNadu, Chennai. I record my deep sense of gratitude to the Librarians of Alagappa University, Karaikudi; Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai; Bharathidasan University, Trichy; Bharathiar University, Coimbatore; Manonmanium Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli; Madras University, Madras; Madurai Central Library, Gandhi Museum Library, Tamil University , Tanjore; Saraswathi Mahal Library, Tanjore, Connemara Library Madras, Government Library at Rameswaram for provide valuable materials regarding my research work.

I express my heartfelt thanks to the Librarian and Library Assistants especially **Mr.Mohamed Khan**, Alagappa Government Arts College, Karaikudi for their help.

I am much indebted to the Officials of Rameswaram Municipality, Tourist office, Temple Devasthanam, Fisheries Department at Mandapam, St. Antony's Church, Sikh Gurudwara, Shankara Mutt, Abil Kabil Dhargha at Rameswaram and Ramalingavilasam at Ramanathapuram for their valuable help.

I record my deep sense of gratitude to my Principal and all Faculty members of History Department for their timely help.

I record my heartfelt thanks to **Dr. R.Abbas**, Assistant Professor, Annamalai University for his timely help.

I also thank **Mrs.S.Vidhya** and **X.Salaman**, **KVS Printers, Karaikudi** for typing and binding the thesis neatly.

I am indebted to my father Late **Mr.S.P.Idrus** for his sustained encouragement and support while undertaking this research work.

My hearty thanks to my friends and my family members especially to my husband **Mr.S. Raja Mohamed**, without whom I would not have been able to do this work and my son **S.R. Parvez Riswan Mohammed** and my daughter **S.R. Leenah Shireen** for their encouragement and support.

**I.NILOFER BEGUM**