Acknowledgements

Quite a large number of persons have assisted me in one way or other in the completion of this work.

The initial inspiration for this study was mooted in my mind from the discussions with Late P. N. Panikar, the founder of KANFED. I express my profound gratitude to his memories for his kindness and invaluable help that enables me to interact with rural people of coastal area.

I am extremely thankful to my supervising teacher, Dr. Joseph C. Mukalel, for his valuable guidance and constant encouragement throughout the study.

I am much indebted to Dr. A. K. Chirappanath, Professor and Director, School of Gandhian Thought and Development Studies, Mahatma Gandhi University for his kind help and support in carrying out the study.

I am grateful to Dr. Nirmala Devi and Dr. Mahajan P. Mani, the Readers of School of Gandhian Thought and Development Studies for the timely help and co-operation.

My thanks are due to the Librarian and administration staff of this School for their help and assistance.

I am grateful to my friends for their help and encouragement.

Thanks also due to the Librarians of Mahatma Gandhi University Library, Legislative Library, Thiruvananthapuram, KANFED and State Resource Centre, CDS Library, Kerala University Library, Cochin University Library and ISEC, Bangalore.

I express my sincere thanks to the District Information Officer, Alappuzha, representatives of KERDA, Misyafed and District Saksharatha Samithi.

I express my sincere thanks to M/s Copy Write, Ettumanoor, for the word-processing and documentation of this work.

I also extend my thanks to respondents; without their co-operation this study would not have become a success.

I am thankful to all who have helped and encouraged me in the preparation of this work.

Leena Lukose