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The formation of Christian community is a complex process which is sometime sought to be understood in simple terms. Christian missionaries are the main agents entrusted with the job to initiate and nurture this process of Christian community formation. The Church with its absolute claim over unification and salvation of mankind expects its missions to realize its ‘divinely ordained’ function through these missionaries. In India the coming of the missionaries from west started with the geographical discoveries of 16-17th centuries which initiated consolidation of missionary work with the colonization of India. The European missionaries, while attempting to sever the Syrian Christian’s links with the indigenous communities, tried to Christianize India by adopting various modes and strategies. The missionaries are also known for their endeavour for studying and trying to understand indigenous societies. The present study seeks to study different dimensions of the missionary engagement in India. The historical process of missionary interface with Indian philosophy, customs and traditions and their participation in the socio-cultural space is sought to be studied by locating them in the framework of their conscience and mentality.

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