ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am grateful to all who have helped me in successfully completing this work. While I sit to recollect the most important amongst them, quite a few intellectuals and institutions come to crowd my memory. It is a very difficult task indeed to reasonably evaluate the help, assistance and guidance rendered by them. And moreover many of them wish to remain anonymous. But academic decency demands that I mention at least a few names which stand out as very near and dear.

To mention only a few to whom I owe a special debt of gratitude, I must begin with my supervising teacher, Dr. P.J. Cherian, Director, Kerala Council for Historical Research, Thiruvanthapuram, for his insightful guidance and stimulating supervision in every aspect of my research. He did instill in me the much needed confidence, particularly at times when it threatened to desert me. And had it not been for his personal interest and preservance, I would not have completed the task. I owe to him all my immense gratitude.

It is my bounden duty to expresss my sincere thanks to the Principal Union Christian College Aluva, Dr. Thomas Phlip, Dr. K.K.N. Kurup, Vice Chancellor, Calicut University, Prof. P. M. Varkey, Prof. Anee M. Thomas, Prof. Anee Joseph, Prof. Suja K. Sam, Head of the History Department and
Dr. Sebastian Joseph, Union Christian College Aluva for their help in different capacities.

My well wishers among C.H.S. staff and U.C. College staff richly deserve my gratitude for their continued encouragement and assistance. I am thankful to all of them. More than that I am deeply indebted to Dr. Shajila Beevi, Asst. Professor, Department of Islamic History, Maharaja’s College Ernakulam, for her immense help and encouragement, in various stages of the data analyzing process in the writing stages of the research work. Libraries have a definite and decisive role in every research endeavor. In this respect, I must say in all sincerity that had it not been for the assistance I received from the librarians of various Universities in Kerala and the staff of the Archives at Thiruvananthapuram and Ernakulam I could not have completed this work. In this regard I am deeply indebted to Smt. Sunada Madam K.C.H.R, Abilash Former Librarian of the K.C.H.R, Sri. Mathew Librarian. I remember all of them with great respect and a deep sense of gratitude. I am also thankful to Smt. Susmitha and Rajesh, librarians of the department library for their support to me.
I am also grateful to the members of different organization in Kerala. Among them, various societies, Smt. P.K. Sheela, Smt. Leela, Anil Mavelikkara deserve special mention for not only providing me the data but for their help and encouragement throughout the data collection process. My heartfelt thanks are also due to those respondents I interviewed for the data collection.

Finally, I owe my deep sense of respect and gratitude to my beloved family, relatives and friends especially Smt Tankamma Madam, for their support and help throughout my educational career as well as my research work. Above all I am deeply indebted to my husband Mr Biju Kallumala, as without his support and encouragement I could not have completed this venture, and to my children. I thank them all with my love and affection. Last but not the least, I am enormously thankful to God Almighty for the tremendous blessing both physical and mental He gave me for the successful completion of this work.

Lekshmy PL