PREFACE

Social Recognition of the need for a changed attitude towards the environment and the relationship between economic growth and the environment has come from several quarters in recent decades. It has occurred at the local, regional, national and international level. Few would argue that current industrial practices are suitable. Exposure to toxic materials used and the wastes materials generated can cause acute illness or death. Neurological problems have been associated with low-level lead poisoning. Chemicals in the food chain that accumulate in the body can lead to reproductive failures. Ecosystems are being disrupted on a large scale.

The present study attempts a socio-economic assessment of the environmental Impact of Industrial activity in Greater Kochi Region. The externalities of industrial development on agricultural production, human health and livestock are studied, for which two critically polluted areas of Greater Kochi Region viz., Eloor and Karimugal are taken. Today environmental issues are choking the very existence of the residents of Greater Kochi. Eloor-Edayar industrial belt along with Karimugal are in the eye of a storm, after the residents of the area complained of pollution.

Studying always incurs debts. Many of the ideas are by now in general circulation. I owe the idea of the work to Dr. C.A. Antony.
I appreciate the many helpful suggestions given by my colleagues, friends, relatives and students. I am most grateful to many institutions and people related to environmental studies, which include NGOs, GCDA, Kerala State Pollution Control Board etc. Publications of NEERI, CSE, Green Peace etc., were also of much use. I have also made extensive use of the Economics Department libraries of CUSAT, M.G. University, CDS and The British Council Library at Thiruvananthapuram.

LATHAKUMARI. P