PREFACE

Women can play crucial role in achieving social progress and stability in society. But very often they shrink to themselves without striving to break the shells of oppression and dehumanisation. Empowerment resembles an apt solution to their lop-sided status quo. Women empowerment is a grand and unique concept. It equips women with the needed awareness bounds to realise their potential and act efficiently. Several steps have been initiated by the Central and State Governments to materialise the dream of women empowerment. 'Kudumbasree", the Poverty Eradication Mission of Kerala Government, started in the year 1998 catches significance in this context. The Mission strives to alleviate poverty from the State through forming Community Development Societies (CDS) of poor women and effecting their empowerment. Self-help strategy coupled with thrift linked credit form the code of conduct of these societies. The Mission completing the initially set tenure of ten years in 2008, an assessment of the extent of empowerment achieved by women becomes imperative. This study is an earnest attempt toward this direction.