ABSTRACT

The thesis work on ‘Local History of Chengannur : A Study of Institutions and Social Relations’ tries recapturing socially relevant events and features of the ‘Historical Region of Chengannur’ from early to modern times adopting the all-inclusive local history approach relying on primary and secondary sources including personal interviews. Awareness of relevant theories and studies was kept all along to ensure ‘informed’ collection of materials and writing of history, but without allowing them to limit the scope of the study even as their analytical facilitation is granted. The writing of history in this study is essentially descriptive.

The chapters are : Introduction; Land and People ; The Political Past; Historical Perspective of the Economy; Religious Institutions; Social Milieu; and Summary Observations. The classification involved some inevitable overlapping as fine delineation is difficult because of interfacing and interlinking of events and component elements.

Even as the local details have been the focus of attention, wherever relevant they have been set in the background of the mega history.

Summary observations at the end give an overview of the societal evolution in Chengannur over the past two millenniums as brought out by the various elements in the study.