ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First of all I bow my head before God the Almighty who has showered His Blessings throughout my life.

I am profoundly indebted to my research supervisor Dr Joseph Sebastian Thekedam for his scholarly guidance, encouragement and wholehearted cooperation in the completion of this research thesis. He has been the source of strength at all times by giving very valuable suggestions throughout my research work. His research experience has greatly contributed for bringing out this research thesis. His patient approach, helpful suggestions, keen interest and constant encouragement in the preparation of this thesis was a unique experience for me.

I bow my heads in front of all the esteemed teachers who taught me throughout my life. It is with great pleasure that I acknowledge my deep sense of gratitude for all the valuable assistance I received from them. My spiritual leaders and those who prayed for me also helped me directly or indirectly in the task of completing my thesis.

In order to enable me to do full time research the UGC granted me leave under the Faculty Development Programme. The Management, of my college granted me permission and gave me leave. To them all I am deeply
indebted. I would like to give my thanks to all members of St. Thomas College, Ranny, including teachers, non-teaching staff and all my students for rendering their support. I take this opportunity to place on record my deep sense of gratitude to Prof. Regi Kuriakose, former Principal of my College who encouraged me to register for the research. Our present Principal, Dr. Abraham. V. Kuriakose has been kind enough to give me all support in my research period.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to various librarians without whose support this research paper would have been incomplete. I thank the Chief Librarian and staff of Kerala University Library Thiruvananthapuram, Mahatma Gandhi University Library Kottayam, The School of Social Science Library Kottayam, The Kerala Council for Historical Research, Thiruvananthapuram, Staff members of Centre for development studies, Thiruvananthapuram, The Kerala History Association Library Ernakulam and Department Libraries of History, Sociology, Economics, in the University Campus, Kariavattom. Besides this I like to give my thanks to the Librarian, Economics and Statistics Department Thiruvananthapuram, staff members of Vadavathur Seminary, librarian and staff of Public Library Kottayam, librarian Municipal Library Pathanamthitta, Librarian St. Thomas College Ranni, St. Thomas College Kozhencherry, C.M.S College Kottayam
Catholicate College Pathanamthitta for the valuable help rendered by them in completing my work.

The dignitaries in my centre of research Kerala History Association and the help and timely advice given by them are remarkable. Dr. E.P.Antony, former Secretary of Kerala History Association, Ernakulam is a great scholar and he encouraged me in the beginning period of my research. Dr. Alice, Joint Secretary (Academic section) and staff members Mrs Dhoja and Mr. Kuttan helped me a lot in this endeavour.

I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all the Directorates of the Government of Kerala, especially the Directorate of Agriculture, Economics and Statistics Department, State Archives, The State Planning Commission, for the data they have given for the fulfillment of my work. The Public Relation Section of the Census Department was of great help for me to collect data. This time I would like to mention the help rendered by Mrs. Shelma of the Department whose timely help reduced my pains. The various sections of the Collectorate Pathanamthitta, especially the Public Relations Section, District Panchayat, Pathanamthitta, District Planning Board, Economics and Statistics Department also helped me to collect the relevant data.
I would like to acknowledge with gratitude my friends who were with me during my research. It is with great gratitude I remember the name of my former colleague, Mr. Bino. P. Jose, Assistant Professor, Department of History, St. Dominic’s College Kanjirappally. By giving suggestions and timely help he was my right hand throughout the research. In the Survey conducted for my research, in its analysis and finally in reading the manuscript and giving valuable suggestion he was with me amidst his busy schedule.

Mr. Rony K. Baby, Assistant Professor, St. Dominic’s College Kanjirappally, was a source of guidance in the beginning part of my research. He has also rendered help by reading the entire manuscript and rendered valuable comments. Mrs. Sajini, Assistant Professor, St Thomas College Ranny gave me all sorts of advice in the analysis section. I take this opportunity to thank her too. Mr. Joy Thomas, Assistant Professor, K.G. College Pampady shared his own experiences in the final stages of research and that helped me a lot to modify my thesis. The friends and colleagues in my College, especially in my Department encouraged me a lot. I am deeply indebted to them all.

I express my gratitude to the co-operation of all the people who participated in the Survey conducted for the collection of empirical data.
My family members were the pillars behind me throughout my research period. I express my gratitude to my father Prof. C.A. Joseph, and my mother Mrs. Rosamma Joseph, whose blessings and timely advice guided me throughout my life and in the period of research. The immense support given by my husband Mr. Koshy Varghese and our two kids, Joel and Rose is immeasurable. My sister Dhanya, my sister-in-law Sunitha and their family members also gave me all sorts of encouragement and support. I extend my thanks to all of them also.

I thank once again to all who have directly and indirectly related to my work and their prayers and blessings I request now and always.

DEEPA ROSELIN JOSEPH