PREFACE

As a faculty member of Department of Botany, Union Christian College Aluva, since 1969, I was always aware of the financial difficulties faced by college and its impact on academic life. As an activist of the All Kerala Private College Teachers Association and subsequently its president, I became aware that the financial problem faced by my college is not an isolated problem, but is endemic to the whole system. As syndicate member of Mahatma Gandhi University, I realised that the financial problem is faced not only by the colleges, but also by the University. As a member of the High Power Expert Committee of the Cochin University of Science and Technology to study the financial crisis of the University, I had occasion to study the financial situation of that University in depth. As a member of the Task Force of the State Planning Board, I had an opportunity to study the financial crisis faced by the higher education system in the state. As president of AKPCTA, I had an opportunity to submit a memorandum to the Eleventh Finance Commission and to discuss with them personally on the need for helping the educational system in Kerala through upgradation and special problem grants. The present study is an attempt to extend my understanding of the financial situation in Kerala’s Universities and Colleges, gained from my practical experience as an academic administrator and teacher activist.

My non social science academic background was definitely a handicap for me in this study. But many experts in social sciences willingly extended their help. I would like to record my gratitude and deep sense of appreciation to each one of them. My guide, Dr. Rajan Gurukkal, Director and Professor, School of Social
Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam was not merely a statutory guide, but a good friend and a source of inspiration and encouragement. It was his consistent interest and encouragement that made it possible to bring this study to its successful conclusion. I am happy to place on record my debt of gratitude to Dr Rajan Gurukkal.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Ajith Kumar, Director, Centre for Socio-Economic and Environmental studies, Cochin. He helped me with the questionnaire, sampling and analysis. Dr. E.S. Jeevanand, Department of Statistics, Union Christian College, Aluva has also extended valuable help in computer processing and analysing of the data.

I had fruitful discussion with many experts on higher education. One of the names which I would like to mention specially is Dr. N.V. Varghese of the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA). He provided a lot of research materials and gave me an insight into the problems of financing higher education. I had very useful discussions with Dr. A. Sukumaran Nair, former Vice-Chancellor of M.G. University, Kottayam, Dr. Babu Joseph, Vice-Chancellor of CUSAT, Cochin and Dr. N. Babu, Vice-Chancellor of Kerala University. These discussions helped me immensely in understanding not only the problems of financing higher education but also its possible solutions. Dr. Michael Tharakan of Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum and Dr. P.M. Jaleel, Director, School of Pedagogical Sciences, M.G. University, Kottayam helped me in the collection of literature.
I wish to express my thanks to Dr. Joseph Kachappilly, Campus Director, Sree Sankaracharya Sanskrit University, Kalady who helped me in this study from the very beginning. The discussions I had with him and the suggestions that he gave have helped me in this research. I have also benefited from the discussion and debates with my colleagues in the AKPCTA on numerous occupations. My special thanks are due to them.

My wife Magy and children Rajesh and Rose Anne bore the brunt of the difficulties and were a source of inspiration and encouragement. I thank them very warmly.