CHAPTER II

SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Objective of the Study

This study is aimed at understanding, identifying and presenting the social aspects and dimensions in the literary works of Vedānta Deśika. The main objective of this study is to highlight the social life as found in the works of Vedānta Deśika.

2.2 Scope of the Study

Vedānta Deśika is a poetic genius, great dramatist and prolific author. He has scholastic attainments both in Sanskrit and Tamil. He has composed numerous verses catering to a wide range of prosody. The scope of this study is limited to all those works of Vedānta Deśika in Sanskrit excepting his philosophical and theological works. Vedānta Deśika’s works in Tamil and manipravālu do not form part of this study.

2.3 Methodology

All the works of Vedānta Deśika were listed from various sources available. Based on the restricted scope of the study the following works of Vedānta Deśika together with the commentaries were studied with a sociological perspective:
(a) Drama - Sankalpa suryodayam

(b) Kavya - Yadavabhyuyadham

(c) Code of conduct - Subhasita Nivi

(d) Poetical works - Hamsa sandesam, Pduka sahasram

(e) Prayer songs - Entire gamut of the stotra literature comprising the following:

- Gopalamshati
- Varadaraja panchasat
- Daya satakam
- Yatiraja saptati
- Abhiti Stavah
- Aicuta satakam
- AstaBhuja Astakam
- Bhagavad Dhyana Sopanam
- Bhustuti
- Daśavatāra Stotram
- Dehaleśa stutih
- Sri Devanayaka Panchasat
- Garuda dandakam
- Garuda Panchasat
• *Srī Godā Stutīḥ*

• *Srī Hayagrīva stotram*

• *Kāmāsikāṣṭakam*

• *Nyāsa dasakam*

• *Nyāsa Tilakam*

• *Nyāsa Vimsatīḥ*

• *Paramārtha Stutīḥ*

• *Raghu Vīra Gadyam*

• *saraṇāgati dipikā*

• *śoḍāsa Āyudha Stotram*

• *Srī Stutīḥ*

• *Sudarśanāṣṭakam*

• *Vairāgya Pañcakam*

• *Vegā Setu Stotram*

(f) Philosophical work— *Srimad Rahasyatrayasāra*
2.4 Framework of analysis

The framework for analysis of social life consists of the following seven dimensional scale for presenting this study comprehensively in a proper perspective:

(a) **COMMUNITY LIFE** deals with *Varnāśrama*, culture, customs, and other social aspects.

(b) **FAMILY LIFE** focuses on the interactions at the family level comprising the parents, their children and close relations.

(c) **OCCUPATIONAL LIFE** covers the various forms of work life and the process of achieving work excellence.

(d) **ETHICAL LIFE** describes the details of good and bad qualities, the code of conduct and value systems.

(e) **CULTURAL LIFE** presents a vivid picture of the rich cultural aspects covering heritage, tradition, ethos, language and association.

(f) **POLITICAL LIFE** portrays the system of justice, political administration and kingship.

(g) **SPIRITUAL LIFE** explains in detail various aspects pertaining to religion, God and self realization.
Each one of these dimensions is dealt with elaborately in one Chapter.

2.5 Index of Key Sanskrit terms

An index to the key Sanskrit terms used in this study is presented in Appendix I. The key to transliteration is given in Appendix II.

2.6 Significance of the Study

This study is significant and relevant to the modern society as it attempts to provide an understanding of the social life through the eyes of *Vedânta Deśika*. Though many centuries have passed since then, the human values, culture, moral and ethical standards as perceived by him serve as beacon lights showing the path of emancipation and guidance for the society. The efficacy of *Vedânta Deśika*'s literary genius coupled with his care and concern for human welfare are depicted in this study.

2.7 Limitations of the Study

The discussions and findings of this study are limited only to the social life as presented in the selected works of *Vedânta Deśika* considered for the purpose of this study.
2.8 Chapter Scheme

The analysis and details of the study are presented in the ensuing chapters covering the societal interactions and dimensions of various social aspects as reflected in the works of *Vedānta Deśika*:

The social life encompasses various aspects like community life, family life, occupational life, ethical life, cultural life, political life and spiritual life. Each of these key dimensions of social life is dealt with in one Chapter of this study in accordance with the following scheme of presentation:

- COMMUNITY LIFE \(\rightarrow\) Chapter III
- FAMILY LIFE \(\rightarrow\) Chapter IV
- OCCUPATIONAL LIFE \(\rightarrow\) Chapter V
- ETHICAL LIFE \(\rightarrow\) Chapter VI
- CULTURAL LIFE \(\rightarrow\) Chapter VII
- POLITICAL LIFE \(\rightarrow\) Chapter VIII
- SPIRITUAL LIFE \(\rightarrow\) Chapter IX