The Thesis entitled "History of temple administration in Travancore with special reference to Kanyakumari district,(1922 - 1960) " attempts to make a comprehensive study of the administration of temple in Travancore with a special study on the temples of Kanyakumari district which were bifurcated from the erstwhile Travancore state, at the time of state re-organisation in 1956.

The year 1922 represents a turning point in the history of temple administration in Travancore since it was the year in which a separate devaswom department was formed exclusively for the administration of temples in Travancore. The changes in the field of temple management brought about far reaching effect in the social, economic and cultural life of the people of Travancore. The agitations to secure freedom of worship to all sections of Hindu community and to remove the evil practices and other social disabilities are the direct outcome of the changes in the realm of devaswom administration. In 1950, the temple administration came under legislation and the formation of Travancore Devasworn Board initiated further changes in the administration. Thus the
thesis make an analysis of the important changes in the field of administration of temples in Travancore and in Kanyakumari District from 1922-1960 of which the history of temple administration in Kanyakumari District is for a short period from 1956-1960.

The study is based on the primary sources collected from the State Archives and Central Archives, Trivandrum, Tamilnadu Archives, Chennai and National Archives, New Delhi. The work is carried out under the supervision and effective guidance of Dr. B. Maria John, Reader in History, Manonmoniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli. I am greatly indebted to him for his valuable suggestion and inspiring guidance. I record my deep gratitude to him for his scholarly comments and able guidance.

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