PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This dissertation, entitled 'Social Analysis of Toponyms: A case study of Family Names and Place Names of Androth and Kalpeni Islands' is the embodiment of a long cherished hope of mine to enquire into the roots of my own people, the islanders of Lakshadweep, who are caught up in the vastness of the ocean and isolated practically from the outerworld in spite of all modern facilities of life. This exercise gave me a rare opportunity of getting exposure to several disciplines including modern research methods. I had also opportunities to present myself in academic seminars and conferences which gave me some confidence. For the invaluable helps and services received by me, in preparing this thesis. I have to express my sincere gratitude to several scholars, individuals and institutions.

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I am fully aware of the limitations of this thesis, which awaits some follow up activities to extend the findings of the present work to the entire area of Lakshadweep. This will be taken up ‘Deo volente’ in the near future.

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