The closing decade of the nineteenth century and early years of the twentieth century witnessed the emergence of a new and younger group within the Indian National Movement. The new group was called the extremist party led by Tilak. The efforts of Tilak paved the way for the development of the next stage of the national movement.

The followers of Tilak advocated the adoption of Swaraj as the goal of the Congress to be achieved by more self reliant and independent methods. The voice of Tilak echoed in the remote corner of south India in Tuticorin by V.O.Chidambaram Pillai.

Being an extremist V.O.Chidambaram Pillai like his leader, advocated the boycott of foreign goods and use of Swadeshi goods. The economic Boycott of British made goods and use of Swadeshi or home made product encouraged Indian industries and at the same time it injured the British interest in India. As he wanted to challenge the British trade, he started the Swadeshi steam navigation Company in order to help the native Indian in their sea trade. Therefore, a micro-level study has been made to trace the Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company’s Genesis and Growth of Swadeshi Movement in Thoothukudi(1905-1911). The present work is based on mainly primary and secondary sources.

In the course of my research, I have incurred many debts for advice,
encouragement and assistance. I am grateful to my research guide, Dr. C. Veeramuthu, Associate Professor of History, V.O. Chidambaram College, Tuticorin, for his patience, kindness guidance and unstinted encouragement. I have been fortunate in having access to his knowledge and perception.

I am also grateful to Professors of V.O. Chidambaram College Dr. N. Jeyakumar, Dr. A. Kumaraswamy, Dr. R. Soundararajan, Dr. P. Tharumar, Mr. J. Avudaiappan, Dr. P. Barathi and Dr. K. Sasikala for their suggestions and support.

I express my gratitude to the Hon. Secretary, Thiru A. P. C. V. Chockalingam, V.O. Chidambaram, College Tuticorin, for permitting me to do the research work. I am very much grateful to the Principal Dr. C. Veerabahu, M.Sc., M. Phil., Ph.D., V. O. Chidambaram College, Tuticorin for his encouragement to pursue the research work.

I must also acknowledge my debt to the Commissioner and Staff of Tamil Nadu Archives, Chennai, the Librarians and Staff of the V. O. Chidambaram college Library Tuticorin, the Madras University Library, Connemara Library, Maraimalai Adigal Library in Chennai and Central Library, Tirunelveli for their cooperation in providing at my disposal with all the available records and books for my research work.
I extend my earnest thanks to my husband and my parents for their continuous encouragement and support in all aspects.

A.FLORA