ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Words would be quite inadequate to express gratitude in acknowledging the contributions of a number of personalities for this research. Many have contributed to it substantially and some done things, which are seemingly small but very significant. I would like to remember every help with a grateful heart.

With a deep sense of gratitude, I place on record my sincere thanks to my Guide, Dr. N Ramachandran Nair, Former Head of the Department of Folklore and Director FRRC, for his valuable guidance and consistent encouragement throughout the period of this study.

I express my sincere and profound gratitude to the management of St. Xavier’s College, Palayamkottai, especially to Fr. Jerome SJ (Rector), Fr. Anthonysamy SJ (Secretary) and Fr. V. Britto SJ (Principal), for providing me the necessary moral and administrative support in carrying out and completing my research work without any delay.

I express my sincere thanks to Dr. A Dhananjayan (Former HOD, Department of Folklore), Dr. J Joseph Anthony Raj, Head of the Department of Folklore, St. Xavier’s College, Palayamkottati.

I wish to thanks the respondents and specifically the MSM community of Kerala for their generous cooperation in providing me the necessary and critical information on their personal lives. Without the support from the community members, this piece of work couldn’t be completed. My heartfelt gratitude to them and my wholehearted wishes for quality life for them with all the social security and status.
I am thankful to my parents Mr. M. C. Francis and Ms. Pennamma Francis, my brothers and sisters, especially my caring wife Jissy George, who provided me high level of confidence and motivation during the tough time and of course too my daughter Cebu. It is important to express my special gratitude to loving Kanmanichechi and Indumol, who provided me all the supports in Palayamkottai.

I wholeheartedly thank all the faculty members of Department of Folklore, my classmates and seniors especially Peter M A Raj, and Purushotham for their words of encouragement and cooperation.

Joseph Francis Munjattu