INTRODUCTION

History is one of the fundamental factors that inspire human society to strive forward on all odds. To whatever limits the human society strives fast to make new history, to the same limits, it also tries to search back to ascertain its past history. Man, holding his identity to a family, a caste, a race or a language tries to plunge into the limitless dark depths of history and tries to travel though the ages in search of some light on his unknown past. In order to know the evolutionary development and to record it in history, one has to penetrate deep into the dark recesses of history through the medium of literature, language, culture, inscription, archaeological, research, oral traditions and so on.

The history of minorities is a complex problem. India has various kinds of minorities such as linguistic, religious and cultural. They are spread over throughout the nation. The present study gives importance to the linguistic minorities particularly the Malayalee Minorities in Kanyakumari District.

1. Statement of the Problem:

The present work, Malayalee Minorities in Kanyakumari District 1956 – 2009 is an attempt to study the Malayalee Minorities in Kanyakumari District after the linguistic formation of southern states in India.

2. Objectives of the Study:

The objective of the study is to learn the social conditions and problems of Malayalees over the past 53 years in Kanyakumari District. The topic is critically analysed through personal observation, with reference to various books and media in order to learn the nature and structure of Linguistic Malayalee Minorities in Kanyakumari District.
The post–Independence period of India brought many changes in the political and constitutional status of native states. On the first of July 1949, the two neighbouring princely states of Travancore and Cochin which were integrated into one called the “United states of Travancore and Cochin” extending from Kasargod in the north to Cape Comerin in the south. The Tamil speaking people are thickly populated in the taluks of Agasteeswaram, Thovalai, Kalkulam and Vilavancode. These Tamils had several grievances, particularly their mother tongue was neglected and denied equal opportunities in the administration also. Socially they were treated as untouchables. This created much discontentment among the Tamils of Travancore and this caused severe agitation.

The Tamil agitation was started and it was headed by the eminent leaders like Marshall Nesamony, Ponnappa Nadar, Kunjan Nadar and Sankaralingam. In the 1952 election, the ministry of Pattom Thanu Pillai came to power and adopted repressive measures against the Tamils. This was fallowed by a period of vigorous efforts and popularizing the movement of Tamil integration with Madras. The Travancore Tamil Nadu Congress declared 30 June, 1954 as the ‘Deliverance Day’ throughout the Tamil speaking areas. The Travancore Tamil Nadu Congress decided to launch a Satyagraha in Travancore areas form 9 July, 1954. The Travancore police tried to suppress the Satyagraha. So it became violent in several places. To put down the violence at several places the police opened fire. Consequently many people died, hence the ministry of Pattam Thanu Pillai fell from power.

These developments enabled the Travancore Tamil Nadu Congress to draw the attention of the central government. On 29 December 1954, Jawaharlal Nehru, the Prime Minister of India appointed the States Reorganization Commission for doing justice to the Tamils of Travancore. In the process of the states reorganization and its consequence, minor readjustment of boundaries, the Tamil speaking areas (Taluks) of Vilavancode, Kalkulam, Agasteeswaram and Thovalai
in Travancore – Cochin State in the extreme south were grouped as Kanyakumari District and transferred to the Madras State. Padmanabhapuram which was the original palace of Travancore Maharaja was given to the Kerala State.

Based on the Linguistic Formation of the States, Kanyakumari District was merged with Tamil Nadu in 1956. It leads to a division among the people based on their languages. When the Tamil speaking people were treated as majority, the Malayalees were considered as minorities. The people happen to be minorities were not enough to revolt for a separate state. The minorities were so small that their protest was not effective. Therefore, they have to undergo all the oppressions of domineering people and the political structure. These socially and politically neglected Malayalee Minorities in Kanyakumari District protested then and there for their legitimate rights. The Struggle for their separate identity in society and politics was going on for nearly 53 years since 1956.

3. Review of Literature:

This section reviews the literature on the Problem of Minorities due to the formation of the new District Kanyakumari on the basis of the Linguistic Formation of Southern States in India. After the State Reorganization in 1956, the Malayalees became the Minorities in Kanyakumari District.

The work of Kamalesh Kumar Wadhwa¹, analyses all the major Minority groups in India and gave importance to state wide Minorities. This author does not even make a passing reference to district wise Minorities.

The works of D.N Sen², deals with the protection of the Minorities with various constitutional measures in a brief manner.

¹ Kamalesh Kumar Wadhwa, Minority Safeguards in India, Delhi, 1975.
The works of J.A Laponse\textsuperscript{3} and K.J. Henry\textsuperscript{4}, gave clear definition to the Minorities but it was not acceptable to all. They did not mention the Linguistic Minorities in detail.

The work of D.K. Sen,\textsuperscript{5} gave simple references to the Minority Safeguards in the Indian Constitution. He did not give much importance to the Linguistic Minorities.

The work of Rajiva Rajan Misra\textsuperscript{6} presents a brief study of Cultural Minorities in India and give much importance to Minority Safeguards possess in the Constitution of India.

V.N Chawla\textsuperscript{7}, another author also gives references to the Minority Safeguards and their Fundamental Rights briefly in the different languages of the states in India. His works gave much importance to National Language and less importance to Minority Languages. He also gave references to most of the minority languages in the states.\textsuperscript{8} But he did not give references to the Malayalam Language in KanyaKumari.

The works of Ram Gopal\textsuperscript{9}, deals with the Linguistic Affairs of India. It covers the major Linguistic Problems of the Minorities only. It neglects the Malayalam language and the Malayalee Minorities.

\textsuperscript{7} V.N. Chawla, \textit{Fundamental Rights – A Re-inter Pretation}, Fullundar, 1977.
\textsuperscript{8} G.S. Gupta, \textit{Language and the State}, New Delhi, 1995.
\textsuperscript{9} Ram Gopal, \textit{Linguistic Affairs of India}, Delhi, 1985.
The works of Krishna Kodesia\textsuperscript{10} gave references to Linguistic Problems of India. This work did not give much importance to the Minority Languages to the district wise. It totally neglects the Malayalam Language in Kanyakumari District.

The works of C.D. Sharma\textsuperscript{11}, narrates the Educational Rights of the Minorities provided in the Indian Constitution. It does not gave much reference to the Educational Rights of the Linguistic Minorities.

All the above said works are not dealing about the Malayalee Minorities in Kanyakumari District. Thus no systematic study is available on the topic of Malayalee Minorities in Kanyakumari District. So the present study is an attempt to fill that gap.

4. **Scope:**

Malayalee Minorities in Kanyakumari District did not receive the serious attention of the historians so far, though certain separate attempts have been made. No detailed and comprehensive study of the Malayalee Minorities in Kanyakumari District has been attempted earlier. It is a pioneer attempt to study the history and activities of Malayalee Minorities in Kanyakumari District based on original sources. This study covers the activities of Malayalee Minorities in Kanyakumari District from 1956 – 2009. The scope of the present study is to portray the life of Malayalee Minorities in Kanyakumari District. The main Objective of the study is to highlight the conditions and problems of Malayalees over the past 53 years in Kanyakumari District.


5. Research Methodology:

The Research method followed in the present study is Historical and Analytical. The study in total is Descriptive in approach. It includes Socio-Economic and Cultural dimensions. The methodology is based on Archival Research and Library Research.

6. Sources for the Study:

Source materials required for the completion of the works are available in different nature. The sources for the studies are mostly primary sources which includes the Government Gazetteer, Government Orders, Reports from Magistrates and Commissioners of Police, Travancore Assembly Proceedings, Annual Reports and Administrative Records of the Malayalee Minority Institutions and Offices, Reports from Kerala Archives, Reports and Activity Records of various Social Organizations, Personal Interviews, Reports from NSS (Nair Service Society) and other Malayalee Organizations. In addition to this the Proceedings of the various Conferences and News Papers also constitute valuable sources for the preparation of this thesis.

To Supplement the Primary Sources, the Secondary Sources like the Published Books, Gazetteers, Journals, Souvenirs and Magazines also available in the Kerala University Library, Trivandrum, Kerala Studies at Trivandrum, Journals and Magazines from British Library, Trivandrum and Secretariats Library at Trivandrum, NSS Libraries at Thuckalay, Trivandrum and Nagercoil. Newspapers and Periodicals also helped a lot for the completion of this study. The Secondary Sources very often helped to bridge the gap caused by the inadequacy of original information.
7. **Hypothesis:**

The present study is critically examined on the basis of the following Hypothesis. Who are Malayalees? What were the nature, structure and conditions of Malayalee Minorities in Kanyakumari District? What were the contributions of Malayalees in Kanyakumari District? What are the important Malayalee Organizations and the impact of their work? The Hypothesis also proposes various measures to erase the problems of Malayalees in Kanyakumari District which are also discussed in this thesis.

8. **Plan of the Study:**

The present study is entitled Malayalee Minorities in Kanyakumari District from 1956-2009 consists of eight chapters besides an Introduction and Conclusion. It is based on the statement of the Problem, Objectives of the Study, Review of Literature, Scope, Hypothesis, Research Methodology, Sources and Plan of Study.

The First chapter explains the Minority Safeguards in India and gives special reference to Linguistic Minorities and covers the information about the Constitutional Provisions for the Minorities and their Classifications.

The Second chapter deals with the Caste Structure of the Malayalee Minorities in Kanyakumari District, particularly their classification, nature, structure, customs and ceremonies.

The Third chapter depicts with the Festivals of Malayalee Minorities in Kanyakumari District, particularly Onam, Thiruvathira and Vishu. These Festivals are very much prevalent among the Tamils because of their long connection with the Malayalee peoples in Kanyakumari District.

The Fourth chapter explains the Ritual Arts of Malayalee Minorities in Kanyakumari District, Particularly Theyyam, Krishnanattam, Kootiattam,
Kathakali, Koothu, Mohiniyattam, Patayani, Poothanumthitayum, Mudiyettu, Arjuna Nirtham, Kannyarkali, Velakali, Kalamezhuthu, Margom Kali and Theeyattu.

The Fifth chapter describes the Social Services and the Outstanding Personalities from the Malayalees in Kanyakumari District (Voluntary Organizations particularly Navajyothi, Schools for Mentally Retarded, Old age Homes, De-addiction Centers and Orphanages). Again this chapter discusses the Outstanding Personalities who contributed their life for the sake of the Malayalees. Particularly, Literary Figures, great Personalities from Judicial field, Cine field and Scientific Research Field in Kanyakumari District.

The Sixth chapter contains the Educational Endeavour of the Malayalee Minorities in Kanyakumari District (Professional Colleges, Arts and Science Colleges, Higher Secondary Schools and Primary Schools).

The Seventh chapter discusses about the Economic and Medical services of Malayalee Minorities in Kanyakumari District, Particularly Rubber Plantations, Large scale and Small scale Industries, Alopathy, Ayurvedic and Homeopathy Hospitals.

The Eighth and the last chapter deal the Organizations and the Problems of Malayalee Minorities in Kanyakumari District. It related to Language, Appointments and other Regional and Political Problems and the Malayalee Organizations like Malayala Samajam, Akshara Kalalokam, Mithram and Chaithanya Kalavedi are also highlighted here.

The Concluding part of the study is intended to bring out the Findings and the Recommendations.