CONCLUSION

The present study of the Malayalee Minorities in Kanyakumari District is a comprehensive account of the Malayalees in Kanyakumari District, the problems they face and their contribution to the development of the district.

Only a democratic form of government can do justice to the minorities of any sort. The Indian Constitution has a number of provisions to safeguard the Linguistic Minorities in India. There are two specific articles, Articles 29 and 30 in the Constitution which guarantee the protection of the interests of the minorities in India. The Constitution recognizes three different types of minorities namely Linguistic, Religious and Cultural. Linguistic Minority in Kanyakumari District means a group of people whose mother tongue is different from the principal language of the district of Kanyakumari. In Kanyakumari District, according to the State Reorganization on linguistic basis the Malayalees formed the minority group. The Bifurcation act of 1956 also provides number of provisions to the Linguistic Minorities for their Mother Tongue, Educational Rights, Economic and Social Activities, Religious and Cultural Rights, Job opportunities in the government services and provisions for all other privileges enjoyed by the majority of Tamils in Kanyakumari District.

The Malayalees comprised of the caste groups such as Nambudris, Nairs, Ezhavas, Catholics (Malankara and Syrian Congregation), Kurupu, Uralis, Menon, Thampi, Krishnanvakatakas, Malayalam Kammalars and Pulayas. They had some differences in their customs and manners and their lifestyle also varies according to the nature and structure of each community. Nambudiris belong to the highest caste and the Pulayas constitute the lowest caste. But in the present day context, the high castes loose their domineering powers and the low castes gain social equality. Their customs, manners and
their caste deviation etc. are totally changed due to their prolonged association with the Tamil People in Kanyakumari District. But the change never reached the level of cultural assimilation.

The cultural activities have a unifying force among the people whether they are majority or minority. Therefore the Malayalees as well as the Tamils take part in cultural activities without any discrimination. Many of the festivals they celebrate are much of antiquity. Onam is a Keralite festival which has a legendary background connected with Kerala culture. The Malayalees in Kanyakumari celebrate Onam with much pomp and pleasure. Due to their long association with the Malayalees the Tamils in the Kanyakumari District also celebrate Onam. Thiruvathira and Thiruvathirakkali also much familiar with the Tamils of Kanyakumari District. The Tamils and the Malayalees performs Thiruvathirakkali jointly in the school and college level functions. Vishu and the Surrounding functions like Vishukaineettam and Vishukkanikanal are also prevalent among the Tamils in Kanyakumari District.

The Ritual arts are closely connected with the religious rites. So the ritual also originate and grow in the temple precincts. The Ritual arts performed by the Malayalees in Kanyakumari District are noteworthy. The most important Ritual arts are Theyyam, Koothu, Koodiyattam, Krishnanattam, Kathakali, Mohiniyattam, Ottamthullal, Patayani, Mudiyattam, Kanniyarkali, Margomkali, Kamalezhuthu and Theeyattu. The Malayalees as well as the Tamils perform these Ritual arts. The important temples and shrines where the Ritual arts staged are the Sree Bhadrakali temple at Vellachippara, Nagaraja Temple at Kalliyamkadu, Nagercoil, Sree Durga Temple at Kollemkodu, Siva Temple at Kannumamoodu, Sree Bhadrakali Temple at Arumanai etc. During festival seasons the Ritual arts are still performed in the temple precincts.

Though the Malayalees fond the feeling that they have been wronged and isolated, being as minority they never remain idle observers but work hard
as active partakers in the growth and development of the district. The fifth to eight chapters of the present thesis amply illustrate this fact. There is no field of social activities which does not feel the touch of the Malayalees. Their social activities are commendable. They run number of schools for Mentally Retarded, particularly Nambikkai Illam at Kuzhithurai, Karunalayam special school Thuckalay, Assir Vidyalaya at Thettiod, Asissi Vidhyalaya at Chenamcode, Voluntary organizations like Thuckalay Catholic Youth Movement at Thuckalay, Health for One Million at Marthandam, Navajyothi at Marthandam, Counseling centres and De-addiction centres at Thuckalay, Old Age Homes like, St. Joseph Sweet Home at Plankalai, Anbhagam Old Age Home at Munchirai and Devasahayam Nalavazhv Nilayom at Karode.


The organizations directly or indirectly help the whole society. These institutions provide education to the mentally retarded children. Through their educational venture the condition of the backward classes and handicapped children improved considerably. The organizations like Thuckalay Catholic Youth Movement, Health for One Million, Navajyothi and Kanyakumari District Nair Service Society carry out social work. They give financial assistance to poor families particularly the girls during the time of their marriage. The De-addiction centres and counseling centres also helped a lot. Their social activities among the downtrodden people particularly among the tribals in Arukani, Pathukani, Penu, Pechipparai and Perunmalai cannot be lost sight off. It improved the life of the tribals very much.
Education is not only a means of human capital, productivity and hence the compensation to labour, but it is equally important for enabling the process of acquisition, assimilation and communication of information and knowledge which augments a person’s quality of life. The Malayalees plays an important role in the process of educational system in Kanyakumari District. They run a number of educational institutions. Some of the oldest schools in the Districts belong to them. They own and manage Medical Colleges like Sree Mookambika College of Medical Sciences at Kulasekharam, Saradha Homoeopathy Medical College at Kulasekharam, Technical colleges like Siddhartha College of Engineering and Siddhartha College of Catering and Hotel Management at Manjalumoodu, Nalloor Vettuvneni Kandan Sasta College for Education at Attoor, Arts colleges like Sree Ayyappa College for women at Chunkankadai, Veluthampi Dalava Memorial College of Arts and Science at Arumanai, Higher Secondary schools like Aided Higher Secondary School at Arumanai, Aided Higher Secondary School at Kulluppalam and Aided Primary School at Kulapparai. These institutions helped very much to the educational progress of the Kanyakumari District. They are instrumental to the growth and development of literacy and cultural progress of the downtrodden.

The economy is the backbone of the land. Without economic activities the land cannot progress. The economic activities of the Malayalee Minorities cannot be under estimated. They manage factories, cashew factories, small scale and large scale industries and rubber plantations. These factories, plantations and industries provide opportunities to thousands of people in Kanyakumari District. They maintain the exporting business which brings foreign exchange to the land. The economic activities of Malayalees help to increase the per captita income of the people in Kanyakumari District.
The social and economic progress of a district depends upon the medical facilities available in the District. The strength and health of the society is visible in its able bodied inhabitants. People with a good physique alone can work hard and develop the economy of the land. Every one desire a healthy body and longevity, these are possible only through medical activities. There is a number of medical system, the important among them are Allopathy, Homoeopathy Ayurveda, Unani and Sidha. The most popular systems of medicine practiced in Kanyakumari District are Allopathy, Ayurveda and Homoeopathy. In Kanyakumari, Malayalees run a number of hospitals. The pioneer in the field is Dr. Gopalapillai, who founded the Gopala Pillai hospital, Nagercoil in 1940. One of the notable features of the hospital is that ten percent of the inpatients who are poor and needy are given free medical treatment. Other hospitals of repute are of late origin. There is a Homoeopathy Medical College at Kulasekharan in Kanyakumari District. Two important Ayurvedic hospitals are run by Malayalees, one at Kaliakkavalai and another at Kuzhithurai.

Many outstanding personalities sprang from among the Malayalee Minorities in Kanyakumari District. With this manifold contribution to the society, they established their personal reputation in the annals of history. Among them Amsi Narayana Pilla has earned personal reputation for his contribution to the society. He was a freedom fighter, social reformer and educationalist also. He established a school at Amsi for the uplift of the poor and downtrodden in the locality. Now the Amsi Memorial Higher secondary school is one of the leading higher secondary schools in Kanyakumari District which perpetuates the name of its founder.

It is surprising to know that the great scientist G. Madhavan Nair who was honoured by the Government of India with Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan belongs to the Malayalee Minorities in Kanyakumari District. His
achievements in the field of space science will never be forgotten. The honorary degrees he was conferred with the awards he received, the positions he adorned, speak eloquently of his greatness. From 1999 to 2003 he was the Director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Center, Thiruvanthapuram and headed many space projects.

There are many Malayalees who left their foot prints in the field of art and cine media. Among them Dr. Leela Omssery and Kamukara Purushothaman Nair are most important. Leela Omssery is well known for her performance and literary works on music. Kamukara Purashothaman Nair was a good musician who founded the Kamukara school of Music. The sweetness of his music and songs still reverberates in the minds of his audience.

S. Ramesan Nair is a literary figure of much reputation. He translated the Tamil works of Thirukkural, Chilappathikaram and Tholkappiyam into Malayalam Language. Thus he brought a cultural transfusion and set a way for Malayalees to teach and appreciate the great works of Tamil literature. Number of other notable personalities contributed in literature and social culture and these reformers also do meritorious services to the society.

As Minorities, Malayalees face a lot of problems in the Kanyakumari District. They are alien in the land of their birth. The opportunities for natural growth and development are cut short. Job opportunities are denied to them since they communicate in a language different from that of the state. They face cultural and language problems also. Mother tongue is the language spoken in childhood, by the child’s mother to the child. In Kanyakumari District the natural right of the mother tongue is totally denied to them. They cannot acquire education in their mother tongue even in the primary level. Therefore many organizations sprang up to solve their problems. Among them the notable ones are Kanyakumari District Malayala Samajam at Kuzhithurai, Mithram at Nagercoil, Kanyakumari District Akshara Kalalokam at Thuckalay
and Chaithanya Kalavedi at Thuckalay. They bring the problems of the Malayalees in the Kanyakumari District to the attention of the authorities and keep people informed of them. These organizations conduct cultural programmes to develop them. Among Malayalam Dailies the Mathrubhoomi and Malayala Manorama give due consideration to the problems and activities of the Malayalee Minorities in Kanyakumari District.

Inspite of the feeling of isolation the Malayalee Minorities are active in the socio cultural, economic, educational and medical fields and contribute to the development of this district and nation. In due course they will be assimilated to the main stream of society. The attitude and activities of the government do not lead to any other conclusion. When the cultural assimilation is complete the problem of the Malayalee Minorities will be wiped out instead of being solved. But it will be equal to the suppression and elimination of Minority Rights guaranteed by the constitution.