PREFACE

This topic of study “Education in Kanyakumari District 1956-2004” was taken up for investigation in 2005. The object of the study is to provide a cogent account on the growth of education commencing from the formation of Kanyakumari District in November 1956 and ending with the devastating Tsunami that struck the coastal villages of this district in December 2004. Though this enchanting land has the credit of educational institutions like the salas in the medieval period and the blossoming of several schools, colleges including technical and medical in the contemporary period producing cent percent literacy, much has not been written on this virgin topic previously by the scholars. The earlier studies done by some scholars are mostly piece-meal in nature. The pioneering works of Gopalakrishnan, M. (Ed.), Gazetter of Kanyakumari District; Gurumurthy, S., Education in South India (Ancient and Medieval period); Lawerence, V., History of Catholic Church in Kanyakumari District; Naleena Jeyaseelan, History of Kanyakumari Diocese, (unpublished Ph.D., Thesis); Padmanabhan, S., The contribution of Kanyakumari to the Tamil World (Tamil); Yesudhas, R.N., A History of London Missionary Society in South Travancore (1806-1908); Perumal, A.K., Kanyakumari Mavatta Varalaru (Tamil); are outstanding examples. They shed light on the contributions of some particular educational institutions only. Hence a detailed and comprehensive study on this topic based on analytical, thematic and historical approaches is found necessary.
The purpose and nature of the topic which has chosen for research necessitated to seek help and assistance form several scholars. At the outset, I would like to express my deep sense of gratitude to my research guide and supervisor of Dr. M. Desayar, Senior Professor and Head (Retd.), Department of History, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Thirunelveli, for his sincere help, untiring guidance and valuable suggestion throughout the preparation of the thesis. His vast fund of knowledge has been the sources of inspiration for me. I record my appreciation of the very profitable discussions I had with him which have furthered my knowledge of this topic. His timely comments and hints have helped me to put my work in the right perspective.

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