The present work, entitled “Impact of Globalisation on the Village Industries in Kerala- A Study with Special Reference to Handloom Industry in Ernakulam District” is an attempt to evaluate the performance of village industries in Kerala and to particularly analyse the performance of handloom industry in Kerala, during the period of globalisation. The main part of the work is devoted to the empirical analysis of impact of globalisation on the handloom industry in Ernakulam district. The study also comparatively analyses the export performance of Kannur district and HANTEX during the pre and post globalisation periods. The study is organised into eight chapters.

The major findings of the study are analysed under different categories such as performance of khadi and village industries in India, khadi and village industries in Kerala, performance of handloom industry in India, performance of handloom industry in central Kerala, impact of globalisation on the Indian economy, impact of globalisation on Kerala economy, and the impact of globalisation on handloom industry. Impact of globalisation on handloom industry is analysed with the help of some relevant parameters such as production pattern, innovation, modernisation, quality of labour, employment, production, sales, profits, exports, welfare of beneficiaries etc.

Our empirical study reveals that globalisation has produced a negative impact on production, sales and profits of HWCSs in Ernakulam district. At the same time, the industry in the district was less prepared for globalisation as is evident from less modernisation, inelasticity in production pattern, poor quality of labour, limited market accessibility etc. However, the industry depicted a better export performance in Kerala (especially from Kannur) during the post globalisation period. This reflects a good prospect for the handloom industry in Kerala during the post globalisation period.

Based on the findings of the study some recommendations are presented by the author for brightening the future of handloom industry in Kerala during the post globalisation period. Such recommendations include depoliticisation of handloom weaving cooperative societies, de-linking of handloom weaving cooperative societies from the orbit of HANTEX- the apex society in the State, restructuring of HWCSs and linking with Self-Help Groups/NGOs/Kudumbashree units, promotion of private sector, need for patenting, linking of handloom clusters with tourism destinations, effective advertisement, role of information, modernisation along with workers training, special package of credit, strategy for marketing and export etc.

Key words: Analytical variables, growth rates and coefficients, trend analysis, trend graphs for production, sales, profits and exports, annual average growth rates (AAG), sectoral growth rates, structural transition, sectoral distribution, trend line for growth rate-pre and post globalisation periods, ‘global’ and ‘globalisation’, depoliticisation of handloom weaving cooperative societies, effective membership in HWCS and sustainability of handloom workers.