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Title of the Thesis: **ISLAM AND MUSLIMS IN KERALA:
A SOCIO-RELIGIOUS STUDY**

ABSTRACT

The thesis entitled 'Islam and Muslims in Kerala: A socio-religious study' is divided into six chapters viz. Chapter-1 Early Arab Trade with India, Chapter-2 Early Muslim Settlement in Malabar Region, Chapter-3 Early Religious Social Institutions, Chapter-4 Cultural Exchange between Muslims and Kerala Society, Chapter-5 Socio-Religious Festivals and Traditions and Chapter-6 Impact of Muslims on Education and Art and Architecture. The findings of the study have been discussed in the following paragraphs.

The trade relation between Kerala and Arabia started from the early pre Islamic period. Islam emerged in the early period of Islam and Muslims settled as a society in the region. The advent of Islam to Kerala was through Arab traders and they engaged in marriage with local women and settled in Malabar. The spread of Islam in the region was in a peaceful way of preaching. Islamic society emerged in Kerala with establishing their own rituals and customs and traditions. The Islamic society played a major role in anti-colonial struggles during the colonial period; from the Portuguese to British.

A number of socio religious and educational associations and political organizations were formed. A number of religious institutions and movements were formed for different sects of Islam in Kerala. The cultural exchange between Muslims and local

community exist from the emergence of Muslim society in Kerala. It is reflected in religious ceremonies, and in traditions such as Marriage and funeral functions. Many forms of Art and folks were developed as a result of this cultural exchange .The Muslim society in Kerala plays major role in the socio-religious, educational and political arena of the Kerala. The educational system of Kerala Muslims was developed through different stages and methods. Muslims Influenced on Kerala Art and Architecture.

Conclusion:

The socio-religious settlement of Islam and Muslims in Kerala was a long term processes from the early sixth century to the present. The study was a literature review based analytical method to sketch out the historical development of the Islamic society in Kerala from the advent of Islam to the present, by referring both primary and secondary literatures in understanding historical dimension of the study. And the study took out a participant observation technique to review the current religious ritual and social movements of Muslim community in the region.