ABSTRACT


A study on Plural Society with a special reference to Islam and Muslims is the need of the hour. This research mainly aims at deriving the concept of plural society and peaceful coexistence from two original basic sources of Islam; one is the holy Quran, the final revelation and the other is the Sunnah, the practices of the prophet, the final messenger of God. This study consists of six chapters and a conclusion. However the whole research work is carried out in the following steps.

First of all, an analytic study is carried out on the modern theory of plural society and peaceful coexistence focusing on different views of modern sociologists.

Secondly, this research scrutinizes and analyzes the Quranic Verses and Prophetic traditions that are related to the scope of this research in order to draw the concept and ideology of Islam on plural society and peaceful coexistence. After a careful study of the texts and the prophetic practice, a set of guidelines are established as the ideology of peaceful coexistence in the plural society in the perspective of Islam.

Thirdly, a wide range of statistical survey was conducted among various categories of people in different parts of Tamil Nadu using questionnaires to find out how far the Muslim society is practicing the principles of peaceful coexistence in plural society derived from the Quran and the Hadith. However, as a sample, the survey was conducted among non-Muslims in Tamil Nadu.

Finally, the concept of plural society derived from Quran and Sunnah is compared with modern theory of plural society on one hand and with result of statistical survey on other hand to ensure that how far the ideology of plural society and peaceful coexistence is practiced by Muslim especially in Tamil Nadu. A conclusion and recommendations are also included.