ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Appreciation and acknowledgement put into words is the best way to express gratitude.

The author extends her gratitude to the supreme power, the God Almighty for His manifold mercies on her.

The author expresses her sincere and reverential gratitude to Dr. T.S. Avinashilingam, the founder and first Chancellor of Avinashilingam Deemed University for Women and Padmashri Dr. (Mrs.) Rajamal P. Devadas, Former Chancellor, Avinashilingam Deemed University for Women, Coimbatore, for their heavenly blessings.

The author records her gratitude and sincere thanks to Thiru. T.K. Shanmuganandam, B.A., B.L., Chancellor, Avinashilingam Deemed University for Women, Coimbatore, for all the amenities provided for the conduct of the study.

The author wishes to express her thanks to Dr. Shantha B. Kurup, M.com, MBA, M.phil, Ph.D, Vice chancellor incharge, Avinashilingam Deemed University for Women, Coimbatore, for providing an opportunity for undertaking the study.

The author is highly indebted to Dr. (Mrs.) Saroja Prabakaran, M.A., Dip. Ed. (Madras), Ph.D. (Mother Teresa), former vice-Chancellor, Avinashilingam Deemed University for Women, Coimbatore, for extending all possible help and for being a source of support at times of hurdles during the study period.

The author expresses her deep sense of gratitude to Dr. (Mrs.) Gowri Ramakrishnan, M.Sc. (Madras), M.Phil., Ph.D. (Avinashilingam), Registrar, Avinashilingam Deemed University for Women, Coimbatore, for her immense help for conduct of the study.
Heartfelt gratitude is expressed to Dr. (Mrs.) R. Parvatham, M.Sc., Dip. Ed., M.Phil., (Madas), Ph.D. (Avinashilingam), Dean, Faculty of Science, Professor and Head, Department of Biochemistry, Biotechnology and Bioinformatics, Avinashilingam Deemed University for Women, Coimbatore, for her enthusiastic encouragement rendered throughout the study.

With deep sense of gratitude and happiness the author pays her heartfelt thanks to Dr. (Mrs.) K. Usha, M.Sc., M.Phil., Ph.D. (Avinashilingam), Associate Professor, Department of Biochemistry, Biotechnology and Bioinformatics, Avinashilingam Deemed University for Women, Coimbatore, for her inspiring guidance, meticulous care, sustained encouragement and remarkable motivation expressed during the entire course of study.

The author places on record her overwhelming thanks to Dr. (Mrs.) G.P. Jeyanthi, Professor and Dr. P.R. Padma, Associate Professor, Department of Biochemistry, Biotechnology and Bioinformatics, Avinashilingam Deemed University for Women, Coimbatore and for their valuable suggestions and timely help rendered for the study.

The author sincerely thanks the Management, Prof. J. Danrita, Principal and faculty friends of Rev Jacob memorial Christian college, Ambilikkai, for their constant motivation and encouragement to complete her research studies.

Words are inadequate to express her sincere thanks to Mr. Saravanan, Asst. Executive Engineer, TALCO CET Projects, Dindigul, Mr. Alagar, Sri Vinayaka Microlab, Palani and Dr. Jayapparakasam, Professor of Biotechnology (Rtd.), TNAU, Coimbatore, for their kind help during the period of sample collection, analysis and interpretation.

A special word of mention to acknowledge the valuable assistance rendered by the former students Thangaraj, Nithyanand, Vijay and Karthi.
Thier untiring and willing help during the period of sample collection was helpful for the progress of the study.

The author extends her thanks to all colleagues and students in the Department of Biochemistry, Rev. Jacob memorial Christian College, for their patience and co-operation rendered for the smooth conduct of the study.

Words are less to express the constant help given by the friends of her own research group during the process of documentation.

The author is indebted to her family members Pari, Mummy and the much adored little daughter Shree harsha, for their unconditional sacrifices and moral support that helped her to complete her study.