ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

It is immense pleasure to express my deep sense of gratitude to my research supervisor and Chairman, Prof. S.L. Belagali, Department of studies in Environmental science, University of Mysore, Mysore for his inspiring guidance and constant encouragement during all my difficult situations of my research work. It would have been impossible to accomplish this without his able guidance and unabated perseverance in quest of success.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Dr. Nirmal Raju, Professor, Department of History, Mangalore University, Mangalagangotri for his constant support and encouragement throughout my career development without whose help it is impossible for me to get into research field.

I express my heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Ramesh, Professor and Director of Centre for the Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy, University of Mysore for his help and support during all difficult situations of my academics.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to A.G. Gangadhar, Associate Professor and Dr. B.K. Jagadeesh, Soil scientist, Zonal Agricultural Research Station, Mandya for their valuable suggestions during all stages of my research work.

I am grateful to Prof. Siddaramappa and Prof. Prabhuparsad for their valuable suggestions during the tenure of my research work.

I would like to thank Sri. Maritibbe Gowda, Karnataka legislative council member and Sri. Vasu, President, Krishnaraja Co-operative Bank, Mysore for their help during all difficult situations of my academics.
I sincerely thank Dr. S. Srikantaswamy, Dr. N. S. Raju, Dr. A. G. Deviprasad, Dr. G. V. Venkataramana and all other faculty members of the Department of studies in Environmental Science.

I express my thanks to Mrs. Nagarathnamma, Mr. Nagaraju and Mr. Rammanna, who are the staff members of the DOS in Environmental Science, University of Mysore for their help and support during the tenure of my research work.

Many special thanks to my relative’s Mr. Chamaraju, Mr. Krishnamurthy, Mr. Rangaraju, Mr. Shivanna and many agriculturalists from different taluks of Mysore district for their constant help rendered at the time of sampling throughout the study period.

I express my gratitude to Dr. (Mrs). Shanthalaxhmi K, Regional Institute of Education, Mysore and Mr. Chetan, Research Scholar, GKVK, Bangalore for their constant help during the tenure of my research work.

I am very much thankful to my research colleagues of our laboratory Mr. Bhanuprakash M, Mr. Mahesh Bhat, Mr. Manohar B, Mrs. Shyamala D.C, Mr. Vadiraj K.T and Dr. Rajanna A.H.

I am very much thankful to other research colleagues of the department Dr. Shivkumar D, Dr. Basavarajappa S.H, Mrs. Roopavathi C, Mr. Rakesh Sharma M.S, Mrs. Prakruthi T.R, Mr. Chandrashekar M.A, Mr. Aravinda K.S, Mrs. Sowmya Pai K, Mr. Gireesh J, Mr. Lingraju H.G, Mr. Supreeth M, Mr. Shivshankar P, Mrs. Shruthi Arul Kumar and Mrs. Susheela for their co-operation during the tenure of research work.

My heartfelt thanks to my close friends Mrs. Anitha R. K, Mrs. Nandini, Mrs. Ruthuja Patil, Mrs. Megha, Mrs. Pallavi, Mrs. Sumithra and Mrs. Hemavathi for their support in all stages of my life.
I am deeply indebted to my parents Mr. Jagadeesh and Mrs. Chamamani for their commitment to help me to fulfill my ambitions and their selfless sacrifices without which I would not have reached this stage.

It gives me great pleasure to express my heartfelt thanks to my brother-in-law Mr. Sarvanan, my sisters Mrs. Sandhya and Miss. Shilpa, Research Scholar, VTU Regional Centre, Mysore and my little Niece Shri Vaishnavi for their love and affection that enabled me to pursue my goal. I will remain always in debtor to my well wishers, Mrs. Tanuja, and Mr. Devraju, advocate, for their blessings, without which this task this task would not have come to exist.

Finally, I would like to thank the Mysore University and also University Grants Commission for providing financial assistance in the form of Junior and Senior Research Fellowships.

(Divy J)