I started research work for this thesis in 1986. At that time I was in my seventh year as Head-in-charge of Water Quality & Environment Division at Centre for Water Resources Development & Management at Kozhikode. In the normal course the demands of day-to-day work would scarcely have left me with sufficient energy and motivation to make any meaningful headway towards my DSc but certain events happened which made me accomplish what I otherwise might not have. In those days I had made adverse remarks in the CR of one of my subordinates who happened to be the president of an employee union. The remarks were based on congnisable facts and as they could not be refuted with facts, he decided to attack me with a hope that if I can be demolished my remarks may got demolished too. An elaborate campaign of abuse-hurling and character assassination was launched which included brow-beating, writing of anonymous letters, and propaganda through newspapers and posters. Even a camp was set just outside the premises of that research centre and expletives were hurled in my direction on a public-address system.

All this was supposed to cow me down, demoralise me and make me 'surrender' or 'run away'. But strangely it had just the opposite effect. More they tried to hurt my confidence more
steel I seem to find in my soul and more determination to fight back by not only remaining academically active and creative but being even more so than before. I increased my working hours right up to midnight and decided to dig deep into the reserves of energy. This enabled me to surge ahead at unprecedented speed (from my standards) on all academic fronts including my DSc programme.

I therefore acknowledge the contribution (though unwitting) of those detractors but for whose efforts to 'cut me down' I would never have strained myself to grow as fast as I otherwise did. They also made me aware - again unwittingly - of the fighting spirit I otherwise would not have known I possessed.

There was a lot of strength in the moral support extended to me by Dr Prakash Nipaney, Dr M.D. Nandeshwar, Dr Rajendra Soni, Mr Madhavan Komath, Mr T.P. Hifsurehman, Mr A. Alphonse, Mr Baji Verghese, Mr T. Kunhahmed, and Mr Jayaraj - among others. There was active help of my family members including daughters Tasneem and Tarannum who were barely 5-6 years old then and did not even have a clear idea of what was going on. I am beholden to all of them.

(S.A. Abbasi) 20/4/95