

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I express my sincere gratitude and deep indebtedness to my supervisor **Dr. S. Sanjeevi**, Professor, Department of Geology, Anna University, Chennai, for his valuable guidance, creative ideas, patience, words of encouragement and tolerating my mistakes throughout my research work, which have helped me in the completion my research in better way. I would like to sincerely thank my joint supervisor **Dr. K. Ilamparuthi**, Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, Anna University, Chennai, for being my supervisor and guiding me all the time during the research work.

I would like to thank my research colleagues **Dr. V.S. Jeyakanthan, T. Mahendran, Dr. C.V. Nandhini, Dr. J. Satishkumar, R. Vaishali, S. Padma and S. Shanmugapriyaa** for their help and encouragement during the research work. I would like to extend my gratitude to the doctoral committee members **Dr. Robinson**, Associate Professor, Indian Institute of Technology, Chennai and **Dr. K. Sivakumar**, Professor, Anna University, Chennai for their valuable suggestions during the research work.

Special thanks to my lovable sister **Y. Sathya**, and my brothers **Y. Varun, prasath, T. Giridharan & T. Sasidharan** for helping me lab studies. This work is dedicated to my beloved parents **Mr. V. YUVARAJ** and **Mrs. V. RANI** for their faith in me and constant motivation to carry out the research. They have been an emotional support in all the stages of my life.

DIVYA Y