ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am deeply indebted to my supervisor Dr. Ira Ghosh, Ex. Reader, Department of Home Science, University of Calcutta whose help, stimulating suggestions and encouragement helped me in all the time of research work and writing of this thesis.

It is a great pleasure for me to express my gratitude to Dr. Bela Jana, Head of the Department of Home Science, University of Calcutta for her help and co-operation extended to me to continue the research work at the laboratory of the college.

I owe a special word of thanks to Dr. Sunanda Ghosh former Reader and Head of the Department of Home Science, University of Calcutta, for her arrangement with the Primary schools of Kolkata for selecting normal preschool children from privilege group.

I convey my sincere thanks to Dr. S. N. Chowdhury, Director, CINI Hospital and Head of the Paediatric Department of NRS Hospital for giving me permission to collect the samples from the CINI Hospital, 24-Paraganas and NRS Hospital, Kolkata respectively.

I also convey my sincere thanks to the teachers of Morning Glory and Sebarsree Schools for their co-operation and permission for the collection of samples for my study at their schools.

I am grateful to the Principal of Jute Technology, University of Calcutta, Kolkata-700019, for giving me permission to use their instrument to measure the tensile strength property of hairs. I convey my thanks to all the staffs engaged in measuring the SEM of hairs of USIC Department, Jadavpur University, Kolkata-700032 and Central Forensic and Science Laboratory, Kolkata-700017.
I would like to express my gratitude to Dr. Shibani Chakraborty, Dr. Minati Sen and Dr. Santa De, Readers Of the Department of Home Science, University of Calcutta for their constant encouragement.

My sincere thanks to all the staff members of the laboratory and office of the Department of Home Science, University of Calcutta.

I convey my profound regards to my father, Shri Sukumar Poddar for his constant inspiration and encouragement throughout the period of this work. It is a pleasure for me to acknowledge my son, Master Arnab Kundu for his silent efforts in computer use. Finally I am grateful to my husband, Dr. D. Kundu for his inspiration, valuable suggestions and co-operation throughout the work. I am grateful to Dr. B. N. Ghosh and Dr. A. K. Mukhopadhyay for their constant encouragement and help throughout the work.

Swati Poddar.

(SWATI PODDAR)

Food and Nutrition Laboratory
Department of Home Science
University of Calcutta,
20B Judge Court Road
Hasting House, Alipore.
Kolkata-700027.
India