I sincerely acknowledge with gratitude, My Supervisor Dr. Alok Bhattacharya, Associate Professor, School of Life Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, for suggesting this topic, for giving necessary guidance and encouragement, for giving me freedom to work and for his readiness to solve both academic and personal problems that arose.

Dr. Sudha Bhattacharya for her support, healthy discussion and criticism which proved quite useful.

Prof P.C. Kesavan, present Dean and other previous Deans of School of Life Sciences, for making freely accessible Central Instrumentation Facilities, without which this work could not been carried out.

My colleagues Ramu, Vivek J. Prasad and Devinder for their wonderful cooperation and for always being ready to help.

Dr. Gyaneshwar Shukla and Monika for the innumerable help I received from them, during last year of my research work.

Dr. Natarajan, Ganesan, S.P. Singh, and Amaresh, Nagender Yadava and Balakrishna for the kind help they rendered to me during needy hours.

Umesh and Satbir for their excellent laboratory assistance; Alexander, Khan and Ahmed for their technical assistance. Ishwer Kumar for the excellent Wordprocessing.

Directors, T.B. Center, New Delhi and Center Jalma Institute of Leprosy, Agra, for providing Cultures and Patient Sera.

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research for the financial support in the form of JRF and SRF.

Other friends and colleagues who had helped me directly or indirectly and my parents for their encouragement and moral support.

RAMASARE PRASAD