The task of initiating, implementing and completing the herculean task of my doctoral work would not have been made possible without the guidance and help of several individuals both in the professional and personal front who contributed and extended their valuable assistance to achieve this goal. I am indebted to each one of them and wish to express my sincere thanks for their constant support and encouragement.

At the outset I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our beloved Chancellor Thiru. V.R. Venkatachalam for providing the necessary academic facilities and flexibility to the students, encouraging them to pursue professional growth.

I would like to thank our beloved Pro Chancellor Thiru.R.V. Sengutuvan for providing the necessary academic facilities, encouraging students to pursue professional growth.

I would like to profusely thank the management for the support and encouragement provided by Dr. T. K. Parthasarathy (Professor of Eminence & Chief Advisor), Dr. K. V. Somasundaram (Professor of Eminence & Advisor[Academic]), Dr. S. P. Thyagarajan (Professor of Eminence & Dean [Research]), Dr. P. V. Vijayaraghavan (Vice Chancellor), Dr. Mahesh Vakamudi (Dean of Faculties), Dr. Anandan (Dean Medical College), Dr. A.Ravikumar (Dean Education).
Dr. K. Balaji Singh (Dean Students), Thiru. V. Swaminathan (Registrar), Dr. Prathiba (Controller of Examination), Thiru. T. S. Thyagarajan (Deputy Registrar [Examinations]).

I would like to thank Dr. Vijayalakshmi Thanasekaran (Professor Emiretus & Chief Advisor [SRCWA & KCCC]), Thiru. V. Natarajan (Special Officer) for their constant support.

I would like to profusely thank my Guide Dr (Mrs.) R. Padmavathi, Associate Dean PG studies (Basic Medical Sciences), Professor and Head Department of Physiology for introducing me to the world of research, for encouraging my curiosity, answering innumerable questions, for always encouraging me to present in conferences and to publish research papers. She never said no for anything, and always lets us experiment, keeping our interest alive and granting freedom. Her expertise and scholarly guidance, mentoring and steadfast encouragement from inception to completion of this doctoral program has helped me enormously in successfully completing this thesis. Besides, she was a constant source of inspiration to me which enabled me to achieve this most important milestone of my lifetime.

I would like to thank my Co-Guide Dr. Vidhya Venugopal, Professor of Environmental Health Engineering for her kind concern and consideration regarding my academic requirements and for helping
me to do field study amidst the departmental activities and valuable suggestions which enabled me to complete my study.

I sincerely thank my Research Advisor Dr. K. N. Maruthy, Professor Department of Physiology, Narayana Medical College, Nellore for providing technical insights whenever required.

I would like to thank all the members of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) scrutiny committee for selecting me and awarding me the ICMR Talent Search Scholarship.

I thank Dr. A. S. Subhashini, former Professor of Physiology for her encouragement and suggestions in this work.

I am very grateful and express my thanks to Dr. Archana P Kumar, Associate professor for her intellectual guidance and suggestions in the fulfillment of this work.

I thank Dr. B. W. C. Sathiyasekaran for helping me during synopsis submission and in organizing all the data.

I express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Priscilla Johnson, of Department of Physiology for her advice and valuable suggestions.

I express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Dilara. K, Dr. T.T. Ganesan, Dr. S. Roopa, Dr. Bagavad Geetha, Mr. A.J. Bugari, Dr. S. Sheela Ravinder, Dr. Abirami Omprakash
of Department of Physiology for their guidance and valuable suggestions.

I would like to thank Dr. V. Anbuselven for his timely support and encouragement at crucial times throughout the study.

I also thank Mr. Jeremiah, Mr. Kumaravel, Mr. Paramesh, Ms. Rekha, Ms. Latha, Mr. Manikandan, Department of Environmental and Health Engineering, for helping me in collecting data and their constant support throughout the study and Mr. Santu Ghosh for data analysis and providing statistical inference.

My sincere thanks to my dear friends Ms. Smisha Mohan, Mr. Madhan Chandran, Dr. Dhivya, Ms. Gowthami and other teaching and non teaching staffs in the department for their support and encouraging words & relieving me to do this work and also for their timely support at crucial times.

I would like to thank the participants of my study and the management of all the industries without their co-operation and active participation, this study would not have been possible.

I like to thank my parents and brother who always believed in me and my potentials, which made me who I am today.

Last but not the least I thank the Almighty Lord Krishna for His benevolent grace and mercy without which nothing can be accomplished.