ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Pursuing a Ph.D project is a both agonizing and pleasing experience. It’s just like climbing a high peak, step by step, accompanied with bitterness, hardships, frustration, encouragement and trust with so many people’s kind help. When I found myself at the top enjoying the beautiful scenery, I realized that it was, in fact, teamwork that got me there. Though it will not be enough to express my gratitude in words to all those people who helped me, I would like to give my many, many thanks to all these people.

I owe it all to Almighty God for granting me the wisdom, health and strength to embark upon this research task and enabling me to its completion.

I pay my first and foremost homage to my guide, mentor Dr. P. NAZNI, M.Sc., M.Phil., PhD., PGDY., Syndicate Member, Associate Professor, Department of Food Science and Nutrition, Periyar University, Salem-11 for her terrific guidance in finishing this venture of mine. I am very much thankful to her for picking me up as a student of Ph.D. This work would not have been possible without her guidance, support and encouragement. Under her guidance I successfully overcame many difficulties and learned a lot. I can’t forget her hard times. Her unflinching courage and conviction will always inspire me. It is to her that I dedicate this work.

I would also like to extend huge, warm thanks to our Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Dr. M. SWAMINATHAN, Periyar University, Salem-11 for administrative, moral and academic support extended during the course of this study.

I convey special acknowledgement to our Registrar, Dr. K. ANGAMUTHU, Periyar University, Salem-11 for kind help to head this project by providing all infrastructure facilities during the course of study.

I am ineffably grateful to Mrs. R. BHUVANESHWARI, Assistant Professor, Department of Home Science, Sri Sarada College for women, Salem who has kindled my interest to pursue Ph.D and helped me to find a supervisor. Her encouragement and help made me feel confident to fulfill my desire and to overcome every difficulty I encountered.

With a happy frame of mind I gratefully acknowledge the support of special individual who is friend and well wisher of mine. Words fail me to express my appreciation to Dr. J. BHUVANESHWARI for her support and generous care. She was always beside me during the happy and hard moments to push me and motivate me. I can see the
good shape of my thesis because of her help and suggestions in formatting the entire thesis.

There are two people I need to mention especially, Mr.Balaji, Greentech Engineering College and Mr.D.Vinayagamoorthy, Department of Highways, their friendship and unselfish help enabled me to complete my research effectively.

I feel elated to express my earnest thanks to my colleagues Dr.Shabana Begum, Ms.Shobana – Department of Biochemistry, Dr.Anbalagan – Department of Microbiology, Mr.Mohammed Iqbal – Communication lab, Mr.Syed Navaz – Department of BCA, Mr.Syed Khadar – Department of EC for their gesture of good will. They have all extended their support in a very special way, and I gained a lot from them, through their personal and scholarly interactions, their suggestions at various points of my research programme.

With immense gratitude I express my sincere thanks to my friends, Dr.Durgadevi, Dr.Dharmalingam, Mrs. R.Shobanadevi, Mrs.L.Srividya, Dr.S.Parameshwari, Shiny Ravi, Mrs.J.Gracia, Mrs.D.Karunathara and R.Poovizhi Selvi who willingly and selflessly helped me in the successful completion of my research endeavor.

The thesis would not have come to a successful completion, without the help I received from my colleagues in HMCS department. I would like to thank Mr.Mohan, Mr.Mohan Raj, Mr.Mugunthakumar, Mr.Gopi – Department of HMCS, for their timely help rendered to me towards the completion of Ph.D.

I am indebted to my lovable parents Arunachalam and Pushpa, brother and sister in law Aravindan and Rajeshwari for all of the sacrifices that they’ve made on my behalf. I wish to thank my beloved wife Shanthi for her supernal patience in motivating me to face the obstacles in life. I offer my special thanks to my beloved children Ragul, Anu and Nagul, for being in such a good way for always cheering me up.