ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

With overwhelming hearty thanks, I submit this effort to the Lord, Almighty.

In presenting this work, it is my sincere wish to give vent to my profound gratitude to all those who helped and supported me during the course of this study.

I am deeply indebted to Dr. T. Vijayakumar (Research Guide) for introducing the field of Reproductive Biology and for his insightful guidance and encouragement to carry out this study.

I acknowledge my debt of gratitude to Prof. Dr. C.K. Gopinathan Nayar (Retd. Professor & Head of the Department of Zoology, Christ College, Irinjalakuda) whose unfailing understanding and continued guidance created in me confidence to carry out this study successfully.

I remember with gratitude Dr. Dr. M.E. Hammadeh, Professor and Head of Assisted Reproductive Medicine Unit, University of Saarland Germany and Dr. Nabaz Baban, Chief Embryologist, Bilefed, Germany for their benevolent help and guidance in Assisted Reproductive Techniques.
I express my sincere gratitude to Dr. P. K. K. Nair (Director, ERRC, Trivandrum) & staff ERRC for the support extended to carry out this work.

My heartfelt thanks to Dr. C. Mohammed Ashraf (Director, CRAFT, Kodungallur) and Dr. K. Jayakrishnan (Director, KJK. Fertility and Gynaec Centre, Trivandrum) for their help rendered in sample collection, data collection, literature survey in the process of study.

I extend sincere gratitude to Mrs. Sunandha C (Statistician, KFRI, Trichur) for their help in statistical analysis of the data.

I am grateful to Mr. Sunny (MD, SAR Health line) and all staff for promptly providing the culture media and reagents for Andrological and Cytogenetic studies.

Special note of thanks to Mrs. Bindu Suresh (CRAFT Kodungallur) Mr. Sanal Kumar, Mr. Abdul Salam (KJK. Hospital, Trivandrum) & Dinesh Roy, (Tech. Asst. SATHHES, SAT Hospital, Trivandrum) for technical support.

My heartfilled thanks to Dr. B. Jyothish (Research Associate, University of Illinois, USA), Dr. B. Vinod Kumar (Sr. Research Fellow, RCC, Trivandrum), Navas M. (Tech Asst. TBGRI. Palode., Trivandrum) for their prompt suggestions and moral support throughout the study.
My unreserved thanks are due to Dr. Sahasranam (RDS Laboratory Trichur), Dr. Narendranath (Gynaecologist CRAFT) Dr. T. Sawad (Consulting Embryologist, Australia) Dr. Jayaprakash (Chief Embryologist, Dubai Fertility and Gynaec Centre, Dubai), Dr. Ravindran Ankathil (Associate Professor, RCC, Trivandrum) Dr. Madhavan Pillai (Director, Samad Hospital, Trivandrum) for the encouragement to carry out this study.

Thanks in no less measure are due to all my teachers (Dept. of Zoology, Christ College, Irinjalakuda) and my friends for encouragement given carry out the work.

I wish to extend gratitude to all those who helped me in the preparation of thesis work.

Last but not least I express my sincere gratitude to all my family members for the co-operation and support extended by them in materializing this work.