ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I find no reliable words to express my profound indebtedness and heartfelt sense of gratitude to Dr. E.T. Puttaiah, Professor of Environmental Science, Kuvempu University and Hon’ble Vice- Chancellor, Gulbarga University, Gulbarga for being the very sources of inspiration and keeping me ever alert throughout the period of investigation. I am grateful to him for his subtle guidance, constant encouragement, valuable and constructive suggestions, sustained interest, excellence pursuing, ever helpful personality and above all his affectionate way of dealing the things throughout the course of investigation, without which this work could not have seen the light of the way.

With great pleasure, I wish to express my deep sense of reverence and sincere thanks to Dr. J. Narayana, Professor and Chairman, Dr. S.V. Krishnamurthy, Professor, Dr. Yogendra, K. Assistant Professor and Dr. Hina Kousar, Assistant Professor, Department of P.G. Studies and Research in Environmental Science, Kuvempu University, Shankaraghatta for their co-operation and help in timely completion of this research work.

I thanks to University Grant Commission, (UGC), New Delhi, for providing financial assistance in the form of Maulana Azad National Research Fellowship which held me to perform my work comfortably.

I give my insightful thanks to my brother in law Mr. Aijaz Ahemed, Department of Agriculture, Govt of Karnataka, for their valuable suggestions, keen interest and constant encouragement during the critical stages of research.
I feel great happiness to sincerely thank my Husband Mr. Syed Junaid Pasha, Senior Inspector and Assistant registrar of co-operative societies, in CADA (Command Area Development Authority), Shimoga and my sweet daughter Miss, Junaina Sharmin, for his affectionate encouragement, guidance and their support towards successful completion of this research work.

I owe a debt of thanks and high regards to Smt. Susheela Puttaiah for their affectionate encouragement.

Last, but not the least, I am extremely grateful to all my colleagues, friends and nonteaching staff of Department of Environmental Science, Kuvempu University, Shankaraghatta for their co-operation and help.

I acknowledge my reverential gratitude to my beloved father and mother, my mother in law and all family members, who fed me love, affection and courage than anything else, which is alive and agile in my every cell. I profoundly thank for their inspiration and support to complete this work.

I would like thank Sudha Computes, Web World, Shimoga & Aradhaka Graphics, Shimoga for their neat typeset and printing work.

Above all, I express my indebtedness to the “Almighty” for his blessing and kindness.

Arjumand Banu S.S.