Acknowledgement

With great pleasure, I take this opportunity to express my deep sense of gratitude and heart-felt thanks to several individuals, from whom I received impetus, motivation and invaluable help during the course of this investigation.

I must gratefully acknowledge my immense indebtedness and deep sense of gratitude to my guide Dr. Hina Kousar, Assistant Professor, Department of P.G. Studies and Research in Environmental Science, Kuvempu University, Jnana Sahyadri, Shankaraghatta, for suggesting the problem, sagacious guidance and above all enthusiastic and affectionate encouragement given to me during the course of my work.

My sincere thanks to my Co-guide Prof. E.T. Puttaiah, Professor, Department of P.G. Studies and Research in Environmental Science, Kuvempu University, Jnana Sahyadri, Shankaraghatta and former Vice-Chancellor, Gubarga University, Gulbarga for his encouragement and guidance given to me during the course of my research work.

My thanks are due to Dr. J. Narayana, Professor and Chairman, Department of P.G. Studies and Research in Environmental Science, Kuvempu University, Jnana Sahyadri, Shankaraghatta, Dr. S.V. Krishnamurthy, Professor and Dr. Yogendra, K., Assistant Professor, Department of P.G. Studies and Research in Environmental Science, Kuvempu University, Jnana Sahyadri, Shankaraghatta for their support and coordination in completing this thesis effectively.

My sincere thanks to Dr. Vasanth Kumar, Principal, J.S.S. Medical College and Dr. Sathyanarayan, Medical Superintendent, Mysore Medical College, for according the necessary permission to collect the data from the respective hospitals. I take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to Mr. Dayashankar Rao of Kamakshi Hospital and Dr. Vikram, Vikram Hospital for permitting me to carry out the data collection work in the hospitals.
I sincerely thank Gayathri, Lakshmibai and Lakshmikumar for the co-operation extended during my work.

I sincerely thank Dr. P. Niranjan, Environmental Officer and Dr. Sudha Sowmyalatha, M.K. of Pollution Control Board, Mysore who permitted me to carry out the analysis work in their laboratory.

My sincere thanks to my parents Sri. M.S. Jayadev and B.S. Subhadra, my husband Dr. Narendra G. Nishanimath, son Surya N. Nishanimath, daughter Parvathi N. Nishanimath for their support, inspiration and motivation, which made this task possible.

I also thank Mr. Manoj Kumar, Lecturer, S.J.C.E. College for the kind co-operation during the present work. I also thank Dr. Ananthnag, Dr. Arjumand Banu, Dr. Adam Patel and all the Research Scholars of the Department for their support and encouragement during the course of my research work.

I sincerely thank Mr. D.H. Amardas for providing the photographs of the hospitals.

My thanks to M/s. Shree Consultancy and Ganesh Consultancy for all the co-operation extended to me during the entire course of the thesis work.

My sincere thanks to Somanath Raikar of M/s GRS Digital World, Shimoga for documentation work.

Madhu, M.J.