ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to place on record my sincere thanks and gratitude to my beloved research guide, Dr. J. Visuvathas Jeyasingh M.A., M.Phil, Ph.d., for his unstinted support and guidance throughout the course of the study. He has been a good mentor and has been a source of motivation and inspiration to me.

I would like to extend my heart-felt thanks to Dr. P. Paramesh, MD, D.T.C.D., Superintendent, Government Hospital of Thoracic Medicine, Chennai for having permitted me to carry out this Study in the hospital. I also acknowledge the services of Dr. Rajashekar, Deputy Superintendent of the same Hospital for having given me practical inputs during the phase of data collection.

I would fail in my duty if I do not thank the respondents, without whom no study is possible. They had been cordial enough to share their experiences and views in spite of their misery. I hope that the findings of this study will help ameliorate their conditions.

I am greatly indebted to my family and friends for their support, motivation and understanding during the course of study.

Thank you one and all!!

Research Scholar.