CONTENT

Declaration ii
Certificate iii
Acknowledgment iv
Chart index x
Figure index xi
Table index xiv
Preface xvi

Chapter 1 Introduction 1-22
1.1 Alpha thalassemia 3
1.1.1 Alpha⁺ thalassemia 4
1.1.2 Alpha⁰ thalassemia 5
1.1.3 Hemoglobin Constant Spring 5
1.1.4 Hemoglobin H disease 5
1.1.5 Hydrops fetalis 6
1.2 Beta thalassemia 7
1.2.1 Beta thalassemia major 8
1.2.2 Beta thalassemia intermedia 9
1.2.3 Beta thalassemia minor 9
1.3 Status of thalassemia in India 10
1.4 Treatment options 11
1.5 Preventive measures 12
1.5.1 Premarital screening 14
1.5.2 Screening extended family 15
1.5.3 General population screening 16
1.6 Attitude towards carrier testing 16
1.7 Importance of population screening 16
1.8 Aims and objectives of the study 18
1.9 Significance of the study 20

Chapter 2 Review of literature 23-49
2.1 History of thalassemia 23
2.1.1 History of thalassemia in India 29
2.2 Geographical distribution 30
2.3 Screening strategies 33
  2.3.1 Naked Eye Single Tube Red cell Osmotic Fragility Test 34
  2.3.2 Red blood cell morphology 36
  2.3.3 Complete blood count 38
  2.3.4 Analysis of hemoglobin 41
  2.3.5 Molecular diagnosis 45

Chapter 3 Material and Methods  50-69
3.1 Subjects 50
  3.1.1 Extended family screening 51
  3.1.2 Screening of school children 52
3.2 Screening and diagnostic tests 53
  3.2.1 Naked Eye Single Tube Red cell Osmotic Fragility Test 54
  3.2.2 Red blood cell morphology 55
  3.2.3 Red cell indices 57
  3.2.4 Discriminant function analysis 57
  3.2.5 Cellulose acetate electrophoresis 59
  3.2.6 HPLC studies 62
  3.2.7 ARMS-PCR 65

Chapter 4 Results 70-160
4.1 Extended family screening 70
4.2 Screening of school children 81
4.3 Screening and diagnostic tests 86
  4.3.1 Naked Eye Single Tube Red cell Osmotic Fragility Test 86
  4.3.2 Red blood cell morphology 92
  4.3.3 Red cell indices 102
  4.3.4 Cellulose acetate electrophoresis 129
  4.3.5 HPLC studies 135
  4.3.6 ARMS-PCR 142
  4.3.7 Discriminant function analysis 150

Chapter 5 Discussion 161-180
5.1 Extended family screening 161
5.2 Screening of school children 163
5.3 Screening and diagnostic tests 164
  5.3.1 Naked Eye Single Tube Red cell Osmotic Fragility Test 164
  5.3.2 Red blood cell morphology 167
  5.3.3 Red cell indices 168
  5.3.4 Cellulose acetate electrophoresis 170
  5.3.5 HPLC studies 171
  5.3.6 ARMS-PCR 174
  5.3.7 Discriminant function analysis 176

Chapter 6 Conclusion 181-186
6.1 Extended family screening 182
6.2 Screening of school children 183
6.3 Screening and diagnostic tests 183
    6.3.1 Naked Eye Single Tube Red cell Osmotic Fragility Test 183
    6.3.2 Red blood cell morphology 184
    6.3.3 Red cell indices 184
    6.3.4 Cellulose acetate electrophoresis 185
    6.3.5 HPLC studies 185
    6.3.6 ARMS-PCR 186
    6.3.7 Discriminant function analysis 186

References 187-228