ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It is a great privilege to express my deepest sense of gratitude and profound indebtedness to my respected guide Prof. (Dr.) S. Kalita, Ex-Head, Department of Environmental Science, Gauhati University, Guwahati, whose constant guidance, valuable suggestions and supervision in different spheres of works have enabled me to complete the present work smoothly. I cannot recount the various ways he has helped me and I shall be ever grateful to him. The successful completion of this work is merely a clear reflection of his inspiring guidance and continued interest.

I am grateful to Dr. H.P. Sharma, Prof. and Head, Department of Environmental Science, Gauhati University, Guwahati for his unconditional guidance, motivation and moral support throughout the whole tenure.

I am also grateful to Dr. S.K. Sharma, Ex – Head and Prof. (Retd.), Department of Environmental Science, for the constant and unwavering support and enthusiasm that he showed through the entire period of study and also for his invaluable suggestions and guidance which had helped me a lot.

I extend my thanks to all the other faculty members and office staff of Department of Environmental Science, Gauhati University, Guwahati for their valuable suggestions and support.

I offer my sincere gratitude to Mrs. Meena, Director, “Accelcraft” for providing me the ARCGIS software which was of a great help to me in preparing the maps.

I am highly indebted to UGC for awarding me fellowship and study leave for a period of three years under “Faculty Development Programme” to carry out my research work.

I self remain ever grateful to all my colleagues in the Department of Physics, Arya Vidyapeeth College, Guwahati–16 for their constant support and encouragement during the entire tenure of my work.

I am thankful to the administrative section of Gauhati University for their help and cooperation during the course.
My thanks go to all my friends for their care, help and support during the work.

My deepest gratitude to my parents and parents–in–law whose blessings has helped me tremendously during the study period. I express my deep gratitude to all my other family members for their constant encouragement, support and understanding which has helped me to overcome the period of anxiety and uncertainty. I acknowledge them with love specially my son, who is a source of inspiration for me.

To be grateful to one, for his invaluable co-operation and to express the same in black and white are two things that can hardly be compared, in so far as their intricacies are concerned. This acknowledgement will thus never be fully able to depict the extent of my gratitude to those who has offered their sincerest assistance in each and every step that has led to this thesis.

Lastly, the names of those whose liberal help is highly acknowledged but whom I may have missed to mention unintentionally.

(ANUPAMA DEVI)