ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
It is with profound sense of gratitude that I pay my obeisance to my esteemed and exalted guide and teacher Dr. Ramesh Kumar, M.D., F.F.A., Professor and Head of the Department of Paediatrics, M.L.B. Medical College, Jhansi, who with his unfathomed knowledge and experience, canny precision and unerring zest for work guided me unflinchingly throughout this humble venture. His firm initiative, timely and constructive criticism, invaluable guidance, divine inspirations and above all a benevolent attitude went a long way towards completion of the present task. His painstaking efforts to mould this work to a fine illustrated shape will always remain as an unforgettable memory in the interior of my heart.

I express my deepest gratitude to my revered guide Dr. R.K. Gupta, M.D., F.Path., Reader, Department of Pathology, M.L.B. Medical College, Jhansi, for his excellent guidance, supervision and unlimited help at every juncture. His constructive and meticulous suggestions have gone a long way in the accomplishment of this work.

I am highly obliged and thankful to Dr. A.B. Sethi, M.D., F.F.A., Professor, Department of Paediatrics, M.L.B. Medical College, Jhansi, who, as a perpetual source of inspiration and knowledge, bestowed upon me invaluable guidance and advice, with remarkable generosity and benignity.
I acknowledge with sincere thanks, the helpful suggestions and constructive criticism offered by Dr. (Mrs) Sheila Longia, M.D. (Freed.), Reader and Dr. Anil Kaushik, M.D. (Freed.), Lecturer, Department of Paediatrics, M.L.B. Medical College, Jhansi.

I feel overwhelmed and am literally incapable of expressing my deep debt of gratitude to Dr. V.D. Ramathan, M.B., B.S., Ph.D., Department of Immunology, Central JALMA Institute for Leprosy, Agra, for his firm initiative, profound knowledge and experience, without which, the present work would not have been materialized.

I deeply value and admire the generous help extended to me by my colleagues Dr. Anil Kumar (Demonstrator in Paediatrics), Dr. Girish Nigam, Dr. Ajay Benara, Dr. G.S. Bodi, Dr. Ashok Kumar, Dr. Kamlesh Agarwal, Dr. Anand Agarwal, Dr. Rakesh Gool, Dr. A.K. Manocha and Dr. C. Singh, from time to time.

I am undoubtedly thankful to Mr. M.S. Samana for his skilled, neat and faultless typing.

I am always indebted to my illustrious mother and brother for their unaccountable pain and sacrifice, and their persistent inspirations which enabled me perform this work successfully.

At last but not the least, to the little innocent babies, children and their parents without whose co-operation this study could not be made a success, I shall remain thankful forever.

(ANIL KUMAR)
'Nation marches on the tiny feet of little individuals, and hence no nation can afford to ignore its children.'

- Jawaharlal Nehru