At the beginning of my thesis, I would like to thank all those people who made this thesis possible and contributed in many ways to the success of this study and because of whom my doctoral experience has been one that I will cherish forever.

I would like to convey my deep sense of gratitude and sincere thanks to my supervisors Professor Kali Prasad Sarma and Dr. Raza Rafiqul Hoque for guiding me towards this goal. This work would not have been possible without their guidance, support and encouragement over the years. Their patience and support helped me overcame many difficulties and successfully complete my work. I am thankful to them for reading my reports; commenting on my views and helping me understand and enrich my ideas.

Besides my supervisor, I would like to offer my sincere thanks to rest of the member of my Ph. D. Doctoral Committee Dr. Ashim Jyoti Thakur (Department of Chemical Sciences) for his suggestion and advices during my course of work and allowing me to work in his laboratory during my sample preparation.

I would like to thank all the faculty members of Department of Environmental Science, Tezpur University, Prof. Kushal Kumar Baruah, Dr. Apurba Kumar Das, Dr. Ashalata Devi, Dr. Nirmali Gogoi, Dr. Manish Kumar, Dr. Satya Sundar Bhattacharya, Dr. Amit Prakash, Dr. Sudip Mitra and Ms. Sumi Handique for their help, support and inspiration.

I would like to extent my appreciation to all the people who provided me with technical and professional help in my analytical and laboratory works. My special thank goes to the technical staff of the Department of Environmental Science and Sophisticated Analytical Instrumentation Centre (SAIC), Tezpur University for their kind help during analysis of my sample. My thanks extended to the research group of Dr. Ashim Jyoti Thakur, for their help during sample preparation.

I relish the moments spent with my laboratory mates and I am grateful to you all not only for the assistance, simulating discussions and the encouragement but also for the fun that we had together during this monotonous journey. I would like to thank Environmental Monitoring and Analysis group Ms. Sanghita Dutta, Dr. Upasona Devi, Dr. Prativa Sharma, Ms. Sangita Baruah, Dr. Nilotpal Das, Dr. Pallavi Das, Latu Khanikar, Rajat Shubro Bose, Rashmi Rekha Gogoi, Monashree Sarma Bora and Surajit Baruah for their endless help and co-operation throughout the period of this study. I also acknowledge with gratitude the encouragement, valuable suggestions, constant help and support of my dear friend Dr. Bhaswatee Baroowa during the period. I extend my gracious thanks to Sreyashi Paul, Banashree Sarma, Arbind Kumar Patel, Jyoti Prakash Deka, Pranamika Bhuyan, Dr. Pratibha Deka, Dr. Karisma Hussain, Dr. Shashikala Kalita and Dr. Parishmita Sarma for helping me in the thesis with helpful inputs in the lay-out and necessary brain-storming. I offer my thanks to Dr. Rajesh kumar Sah for his help during preparation of my site maps. I am also thankful to Rupankan and Rajat for their help during my sampling.

I extend my sincere thanks to the research scholar and entire family of Department of Environmental Science, Tezpur University for the valuable support throughout the course of my research. I am also thankful to the members of ONGC-CPBT Cell, Tezpur University for their help during the course of my work.

I would be thankful to Tezpur University for providing me the opportunity and all the necessary facilities to conduct my research work.

I would also like to acknowledge the ONGC-CPBT project entitled "Spatial distribution and source apportionment of PAHs in drinking water and soil of surrounding areas of oilfields of Borholla area of Jorhat" for equipments and other analytical supports. My special thanks goes to the stuff of ONGC, Cinnamara, Jorhat for providing me necessary facilities and helping during collection of samples. Analytical supports from Ministry of Earth Science sponsored project (Grant no. MoES/16/16/10-RDEAS) are also acknowledged.

I would like to thank University Grants Commission (UGC), New Delhi for financial grant in the form of Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship (RGNF) to carry out my research smoothly and comfortably.

Most importantly, none of this would have been possible without the love and patience of my family. I will always be indebted to my mother Mrs. Sarala Deka, my father, Mr. Ganesh Deka and my brother Mr. Hitesh Deka for their continuous support, care and strength all these days. My humble thank also goes to my in laws family for their continuous support during my work.

I very special thanks goes to my husband Mr. Prantik Nayak, who always stood beside me and empowered me in good and bad times of my life. This work would be very hard without his support.

Lastly and most importantly I would like to thank the GOD for giving me the strength and the confidence to complete this work.

Jinu Deka