

Acknowledgment

This thesis is reflecting on my years spent at the Applied Chemistry Department of Faculty of Technology and Engineering at The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, it is undeniable that my achievements, especially my research work leading to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Applied Chemistry. It gives me immense pleasure to acknowledge all those who have contributed to the conclusion of my research. This would not have been possible without the many contributions from insightful mentors, gracious friends, and supportive family members. Although I cannot hope to repay this sizable debt within a page, I would like to take the next few lines to humbly acknowledge those that have pushed me forward and kept me from drifting astray.

First, I offer my heartfelt gratitude to my research supervisor, **Dr. Rakesh K. Sharma**, Assistant Professor, Applied Chemistry Department, Faculty of Technology and Engineering, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda for giving me the opportunity to work under his guidance to pursue my Ph.D. degree. His able guidance and constant support inspired me to work hard and to put more efforts in my research and study. His constant involvement, keen knowledge and interest in the subject proved to be a major contribution to this work. I successfully overcame many difficulties and learned a lot under his guidance. I am heartily thankful to him for his constant encouragement and invaluable guidance.

With lots of gratitude, I would like to thank **Prof. R C Tandel**, Head, Applied Chemistry Department, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda for providing the infrastructural facilities and motivation during my research work.

The financial support obtained in the form of a Project Fellowship from the UGC-DAE CRS Research Project (CRS-M-205), Bhabha Atomic Research Center (BARC), Mumbai, Maharashtra is gratefully acknowledged.

Also, I would like to thank **Dr. V K Aswal** and **Dr. Debes Ray**, Eminent Scientists, Solid State Physics Division (SSPD), Bhabha Atomic Research Center (BARC), Mumbai for their valuable collaboration in my research work. I thank you for their contribution and timely supports in the analysis of small angle neutron scattering (SANS) and dynamic light scattering (DLS). I am also grateful to them for their valuable suggestions during the period of my research.

I would like to extend my sincere Thanks to Dr. Chandramani Pathak and his research student Ms. Foram Vaidya, Department of Cell Biology, School of Biological Sciences and Biotechnology, Indian Institute of Advanced Research (IIAR), Gandhinagar, Gujarat for helping with various biological analysis during my research work.

I am also thankful to Dr. Ravi Vijayvargiya and his student Sushmita Singh, Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Science, The M S University of Baroda, Vadodara, Gujarat for helping me in the antibacterial and antioxidant analysis.

I wish to especially thank Ms. Seema Saroj, Research Student of Faculty of Pharmacy, The M S University of Baroda, Vadodara, for her help in the computational study.

I am deeply grateful to my lab colleagues Sneha Singh, Pranav Chitte, Late **Yogeshwar Chamkure** for their help, co-operation, fruitful discussions and support during my Ph.D. work. I may not able to express my words for my colleague Yogesh Chamkure for his time to time laboratory cooperation and teamwork during my Ph.D. work.

I extend my thanks to Mr. Shameem, USAIF, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh (UP) for his help in the TEM analysis.

I also wish to thank all the teaching staff of the department, particularly for their constant help during the entire period of my research.

I would also like to extend my huge and warm thanks to my departmental colleagues for their help and co-operation during my work.

Thanks to my hostel friends Vaishali, Nirali, Rinku, Bhoomi, Shabnam, Priyanka, Ruchi during my stay in Baroda for a period of research.

It's worth to thank the people from my native place Dr. Raheman Sir, Dr. Firoz Kapadia Sir, Dr. J D Desai Sir for their guidance and strong moral support. Special thanks to Shachi Contractor for always supporting me as a best friend.

Without any doubt, I am extremely indebted to my parents **Jamil Ahmed Shaikh** and **Saheda Banu Shaikh**, who has always been by my side through all ups and downs of my life and have constantly encouraged and staunchly supported me during the diverse times. Dear "Mom" and "Dad", it is hard to express my thanks to you in words. Your understanding, faith, advice, intellectual spirit and indescribable support to me throughout my life are invaluable. I am very grateful for your care, love, affection, and trust in me and

further thank you for your constant interest and positive stimulation. I thank them for inculcating the values of education which, I think, makes me a better person and a better researcher.

Most importantly, my heartfelt thanks to my brothers Mr. Shahrukh & Mr. Kasif for making me feel special in every stage of my life and stood behind me to boost up to achieve my target.

I want to express thanks to Mr. Sakil Ahmed Shaikh, Mr. Afsar Ahmed Shaikh for always encouraging me during the entire period of my study.

I want to thank Mr. Abdul Majid for moral support in the duration of my Thesis preparation.

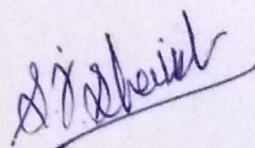
I also thank Sneha Di & Mahesh Bhaiya for spreading happiness and liveliness in my life.

I would take this opportunity to express my deep sense of gratitude and love to my Grand Parents Zahir Hasan and Isarat Shaikh, for whom this work is dedicated, biggest thanks to Nanu Mr. Abdul Aziz Shaikh for always praying for my better career and future and my ideal teacher **Dolly Mam** for her unfailing and loving support as well as irreplaceable assistance. Words will always be less to explain their role as my friends and philosophers.

I would also like to express my gratitude to all those whom I may have failed to mention above but nonetheless, have contributed to my research studies in one way or the other.

Above all, I have no words to thank the Almighty Allah for giving me inspiration and sustainable strength and easing my difficulties and opening the doors of success to contribute to society.

Finally, I would like to dedicate this thesis to my Grand Parents.


Sofiyabanu J. Shaikh