

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

*I would like to express my gratitude to Prof. Dr. Mervat El-Rafie, Professor of Public Health and Community Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Cairo University, who initiated and assigned the subject of this thesis. Her planning continuous guidance, objective criticism and encouragement are deeply appreciated.*

*My gratitude and deep appreciation goes to Prof. Dr. Fatma Abu-Hashima, Professor of Public Health and Community Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Cairo University, for her meticulous supervision and devotion of her time that helped me through all the steps of this study.*

*I am also indebted to Prof. Dr. Galal Amer, Professor of Cardiology, Faculty of Medicine, Mansoura University, for his sincere guidance, kind help and cooperation.*

*I am grateful to Dr. Farouk Shaheen, Assistant Professor of Public Health, Nutrition Institute, Cairo.*

*I am deeply thankful to Dr. Mohamed Hassan, Professor of Public Health and Community Medicine, for his valuable guidance in the statistical analysis of this work and his continuous encouragement and support.*

*I shall always cherish the marvelous support and encouragement by all members of the Public Health and Community Medicine Department.*

*Finally, I am deeply thankful to the school teachers and physicians who participated in this study. Their cooperation, patience in answering my endless questions, and understanding were essential to carry out the present study.*