

---

| <b>CONTENTS:</b>               | <b>Page No</b>   |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| <i>Abstract</i>                | <b>I-IX</b>      |
| <i>List of Tables</i>          | <b>X-XIII</b>    |
| <i>List of Figures</i>         | <b>XIV</b>       |
| <i>List of Abbreviations</i>   | <b>XV</b>        |
| <i>Introduction</i>            | <b>1-8</b>       |
| <i>Review of Literatures</i>   | <b>9-20</b>      |
| <i>Aim and Objectives</i>      | <b>21-23</b>     |
| <i>Methodology</i>             | <b>24-45</b>     |
| <i>Results and Discussion</i>  | <b>46-140</b>    |
| <i>Summary and Conclusions</i> | <b>141-147</b>   |
| <i>References</i>              | <b>149-178</b>   |
| <i>Appendix</i>                | <b>i-xxiii</b>   |
| <i>List of Publications</i>    | <b>xxiv-xxvi</b> |

---