
CONTENTS

Description	Page No.
Abbreviations	XIV-XV
List of Figures	XVI-XX
List of Tables	XXI
Preface	XXII-XXV
CHAPTER-1	1-30
1.1 Introduction -----	1
1.2 Industrial pollution -----	1
1.3 Water pollution -----	2
1.3.1 Point sources of contamination -----	2
1.3.2 Non-point sources contamination -----	2
1.4 Techniques used for waste water treatment -----	5
1.4.1 Adsorption -----	6
1.4.2 Biological method of treatment -----	7
1.4.3 Advanced Oxidation Processes (AOPs) -----	8
1.4.3.1 Homogeneous Process -----	9
1.4.3.2 Heterogeneous Process -----	11
1.4.3.2.1 Photocatalysis -----	11
1.5 Heterogeneous photocatalysis -----	12
1.5.1 Basic principle and mechanism of heterogeneous photocatalysis -----	14
1.6 Basic strategies adopted for efficient charge separation -----	17

1.6.1 Interface engineering at junctions	-----	18
1.7 Chemical methods used for the preparation of nanoparticles	-----	21
1.7.1 Sol-gel method	-----	21
1.7.2 Hydrothermal method	-----	22
1.7.3 Electrochemical method	-----	22
1.7.4 Co-precipitation method	-----	23
1.8 Literature review on metal oxides based semiconductors	-----	23
1.8.1 NiO based semiconductor photocatalysts	-----	24
1.8.2 ZnO based semiconductor photocatalysts	-----	25
1.9 Objectives of the present work	-----	27
1.10 Targeted organic pollutants	-----	27
1.10.1 Malachite green	-----	28
1.10.2 Rhodamine B	-----	29
1.10.3 p-nitrophenol	-----	29
CHAPTER-2		31-48
2.1 Introduction	-----	31
2.2 Materials	-----	31
2.3 Sample preparation	-----	32
2.4 Characterization techniques	-----	32
2.4.1 High resolution X-ray diffraction pattern	-----	32
2.4.2 Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy	-----	35
2.4.3 Transmission electron microscopy	-----	36
2.4.4 Field emission scanning electron microscopy	-----	37
2.4.5 X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy	-----	38

2.4.6 N ₂ Adsorption-Desorption analysis	40
2.4.7 UV-Visible diffuse reflectance spectra	41
2.4.8 UV-Visible spectroscopy	45
2.3.9 Photoluminescence spectroscopy	47
CHAPTER-3	49-71
3.1 Introduction	49
3.2 Experimental	51
3.2.1 Synthesis of g-C ₃ N ₄	51
3.2.2 Synthesis protocol of g-C ₃ N ₄ /NiO nanocomposite	51
3.3 Characterization	52
3.3.1 Photocatalytic efficiency	52
3.4 Results and discussion	53
3.4.1 HR-XRD	53
3.4.2 FT-IR analysis	54
3.4.3 Morphology measurements	55
3.4.3.1 TEM and FE-SEM	55
3.4.3.2 B.E.T	57
3.4.4 X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) analysis	58
3.4.5 Optical property analysis	60
3.4.6 Photocatalytic degradation measurements	61
3.4.6.1 Effect of g-C ₃ N ₄ content	64
3.4.6.2 Observation of active species involved in MG degradation	65
3.4.6.3 Mechanism of photocatalytic degradation of MG	66

3.4.6.4 Turn over frequency and recyclability	-----	68
3.5 Conclusions	-----	70
CHAPTER-4		72-93
4.1 Introduction	-----	72
4.2 Experimental	-----	74
4.2.1 Synthesis of NiO	-----	74
4.2.2 Synthesis protocol of Ag/NiO heterostructure	-----	74
4.3 Characterization	-----	74
4.3.1 Photocatalytic efficiency	-----	74
4.4 Results and discussion	-----	76
4.4.1 HR-XRD	-----	76
4.4.2 FT-IR analysis	-----	76
4.4.3 Morphology measurements (TEM and FE-SEM)	-----	77
4.4.4 X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) analysis	-----	80
4.4.5 B.E.T	-----	82
4.5 Optical property analysis	-----	83
4.5.1 Photoluminescence spectra	-----	83
4.5.2 Photocatalytic degradation measurements	-----	84
4.5.3 Effect of loading of silver	-----	87
4.5.4 Observation of active species involved in dye degradation	-----	88
4.6 Mechanism of photocatalytic degradation	-----	89
4.6.1 Turn over frequency (TOF) of photocatalyst	-----	90
4.7 Recyclability experiment	-----	91

4.8 Summary and conclusion	92
CHAPTER-5	94-117
5.1 Introduction	94
5.2 Experimental	96
5.2.1 Synthesis of ZnO	96
5.2.2 Synthesis of NiS	96
5.2.3 Synthesis of NiS/ZnO	96
5.3 Characterization details	97
5.3.1 Measurement of photocatalytic activity	97
5.4 Results and discussion	98
5.4.1 HR-XRD	98
5.4.2 FT-IR	100
5.4.3 Morphological analysis (TEM and FE-SEM)	101
5.4.4 XPS analysis	103
5.4.5 B.E.T. analysis	105
5.5 Optical bandgap analysis	106
5.5.1 Photoluminescence (PL) study	107
5.6 Evaluation of photocatalytic efficiency	108
5.6.1 Photocatalytic degradation of PNP	108
5.6.2 Photocatalytic degradation of RhB	110
5.6.3 Effect of NiS content	111
5.6.4 Scavenger experiment	112
5.7 Mechanism of photocatalytic reaction	113

5.8 Turn over frequency (TOF) -----	115
5.9 Recyclability experiment -----	116
5.10 Summary and conclusions -----	117
CHAPTER-6	118-121
6.1 Major conclusions -----	118
6.2 Future scopes of this work -----	120
REFERENCES	122-154
LIST OF PUBLICATIONS	155