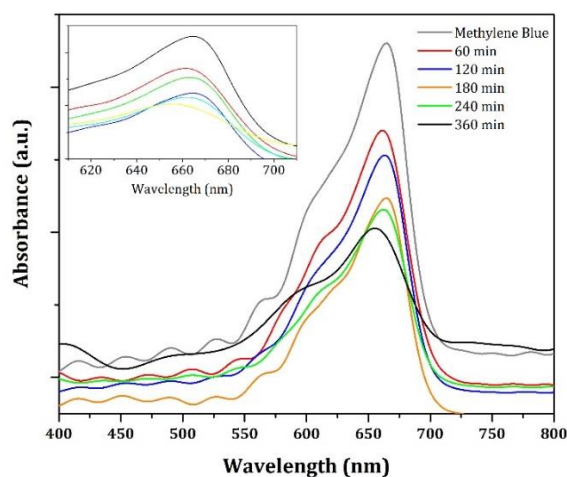


**Characterization of the  $\text{TiO}_2/\text{Cu}_2\text{O}$  heterojunction thin films** (a) SEM micrograph of the  $\text{TiO}_2/\text{Cu}_2\text{O}$  heterojunction thin films at 80x wherein patterned  $\text{Cu}_2\text{O}$  clusters were represented by the bright circles. (b) SEM micrograph of the  $\text{TiO}_2$  thin film layer synthesized by reactive RF magnetron sputtering followed by thermal oxidation in air atmosphere at  $500^\circ\text{C}$ , (c) SEM images of the terraced grain like structured  $\text{Cu}_2\text{O}$  clusters deposited on top of the  $\text{TiO}_2$  thin film layer and (d) XRD pattern of the  $\text{TiO}_2/\text{Cu}_2\text{O}$  heterojunction thin films showing peaks corresponding to  $\text{Cu}_2\text{O}$  as well as rutile and anatase  $\text{TiO}_2$ .



**Methylene blue degradation using  $\text{TiO}_2/\text{Cu}_2\text{O}$  heterojunction under visible light irradiation.** Changes in the absorbance spectra at the visible region of methylene blue dye under visible light irradiation as a function of varying irradiation time. Plot shows a decrease in the absorbance at around 665nm as irradiation time increases indicating the degradation of the methylene blue.