ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Thankfulness and praise to the Almighty
for His blessings throughout this work

I express my sincere thanks and deep sense of gratitude to my guide
Dr. R. Gandhinathan, Asst. Professor, Department of Mechanical
Engineering, PSG College of Technology, Coimbatore, for his perpetual
supervision and encouragement in carrying out my research. His thought
provoking guidance and advice helped in me a long way in the successful
completion of this work. Without his persistent help, continued drive and
outstanding motivation this endeavor would have been impossible.

Dr. R. Rudramoorthy, head of the production engineering department
and Principal in-charge of PSG College of Technology, Coimbatore has been
a great source of strength and inspiration in each and every phase of the
research. The kindness and attention he showered on me are unforgettable. I
admire his style of working. I shall always cherish his support and
encouragement. I express my sincere thanks to all the faculty of Departments
of Production and Mechanical Engineering for their valuable suggestions and
kind help whenever needed.

I would like to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to
Dr. K. Arumugam, Correspondent, Dr. A. Selvakuamr, Joint Correspondent,
Dr. K. K. Padmanabhan, Principal and Dr. T. P. Mani, Dean Mechanical
Sciences of Kumaraguru College of Technology, Coimbatore, for giving me
permission to pursue my Ph.D program at PSG College of Technology,
Coimbatore.

I am deeply indebted to all the professionals and executives of various
Indian industries who have been co-operative and generous enough to
respond to the research program. I am thankful to my friends for helping me in
data collection. I am also thankful to all other fellow research scholars and
friends, whose list is inexhaustible to mention, for their encouragement and
support which made the research a memorable experience.
Finally, I remember all the members of my family with gratitude. My heart-felt thanks are due to each of them for the love and affection bestowed on me over these years, and for the forbearance and cheerful disposition, which were vital for sustaining the effort required for completing my doctoral program.

G.Karuppusami