I have great privilege in heart fully acknowledging Cochin university of Science and Technology for enrolling me as a candidate to do research. I express my deep felt gratitude to the School of Engineering, our Principal Dr. G.Madhu and his office. The Support rendered by Division of Civil Engineering, School of Engineering, CUSAT is deeply acknowledged. The effort and enthusiasm taken by Dr. Benny Mathews Abraham, my Guide in fulfilling this work, is remarkable and I have no words to express my honest thanks to him. He has shown in practice how a guide can inspire and motivate a student especially during the hectic period of the task. I thank Dr. Deepa G Nair, Division of Civil Engineering, School of Engineering CUSAT, who has been inspiring me to pursue the work in its true spirit. I express my gratitude to Dr. K.S. Beena, Professor and Head, Division of Civil Engineering, faculty, laboratory staff and her office for encouraging me whenever needed.

The advice rendered by Dr. K.S. Jagadish, Dr. A. Sridharan, formerly Professors of IISc Bangalore, Dr.Babu T Jose, Professor Emeritus, CUSAT, Dr. P K Aravindan, formerly Professor in Structural Engineering division at IIT Madras, have oriented me and my work towards its goal.

Let me express my gratitude to the Government of Kerala and the Directorate of Technical Education facilitating me to pursue this study. The Grant received from the Kerala State Council for Science Technology and Environment is gratefully acknowledged. I gratefully acknowledge the support rendered by Dr. Ajith Prabhu, Dr. Binuja Thomas and Dr. Nagarajan of KSCSTE.