ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Foremost, my gratitude is due to Dr. K.S. Easwarakumar, Professor, Department of CSE, Anna University, who initiated the interest in the present subject of study and steered the progress of the research work successfully by his critical intelligence and scholarly guidance. His vision, his enthusiasm and his spirit will always inspire and enlighten me.

My personal and sincere thanks are due to Dr. K.S. Dersanambika, Professor, Department of Mathematics, FMN College, Kollam, for initiating me and for encouraging me and giving me the mental strength to successfully complete the research work. My special thanks to Dr. V. Kamakodi, Associate Professor, Department of CSE, IIT Madras, and Dr. V. Vaidehi, Professor, Department of IT, MIT, who are the members of my doctoral committee for their continuous encouragement and unstinted cooperation. With profound reverence, I thank Dr. P. Narayanaswamy, Professor and Head, Department of CSE, Anna University for the motivation provided by him during this research work.

Finally, I thank my father Mr. A. Velayudhan Pillai and my mother Mrs. V. Anantham for their continuous support and blessings. I thank my husband Mr. Sreekumar K. Nair, Senior Grade Officer, DBA, National Bank of Umm All Quiwan, UAE and son master Sabareesh S. Nair, for their constant encouragement and prayer while doing this research work. I have also been blessed, motivated and helped by a great number of friends and supporters throughout the thesis and my gratitude also goes to all of them.

(V. KAVITHA)