ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The author is deeply indebted to Dr. G.V. KRISHNA REDDY, Professor and Head (Retd.), Department of Mathematics and Computer Applications, PSG College of Technology, Coimbatore, for having guided this research programme by spending very many valuable time with the author for fruitful discussions, and offering scholarly advice, unstinted encouragement and helpful suggestions at every stage of this research project.

The author expresses his sincere and grateful thanks to Dr. R. NADARAJAN, Professor and Head of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Applications, PSG College of Technology, Coimbatore, for his valuable advice, encouragement and continued interest at every stage of this research work.

The author is very much thankful to Dr. P. RADHAKRISHNAN, Principal, PSG College of Technology, for his generous offer of all facilities and constant encouragement.
The author wishes to express his profound sense of gratitude to the esteemed Management of PSG Institutions for providing all the facilities to carry out this programme.

The author sincerely thanks Dr. S. SUBRAMANYAN, former Principal, PSG College of Technology, Coimbatore, for encouraging to register for a higher research programme.

The author thanks all his colleagues in the department in general and Dr. P.R. KANDASAMY and Mr. M. BALASUBRAMANIAN in particular for the cooperation and help rendered to carry out this project. Thanks also due to Mr. N. JAWAHAR, Lecturer in Mechanical Engineering, Thiyagaraja College of Engineering and Mr. AR. LAKSHMANAN, Lecturer in Production Engineering, PSG College of Technology, for sharing their knowledge regarding applications of the models. The author thanks Mr. S. SATHEESH for helping him in getting the numerical results.

The author would like to thank his beloved brothers Mr. R. MEENAKSHINATHAN and Mr. R. NAGANATHAN, without whose help he might not have attained the present status.