ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The author expresses her gratitude to Dr. R. Radhakrishnan, Professor of Electronics and Communication Engineering and Principal, Sasurie College of Engineering, Vijayamangalam, for his invaluable guidance, support and encouragement throughout the course of this research.

The author records her gratefulness to the members of Doctoral Committee Dr. N. Nagarajan, Principal, Coimbatore Institute of Engineering and Technology, Dr. K. Baskaran, Assistant Professor, Government College of Technology, Coimbatore for dedicating their valuable time in providing useful suggestions and continuous support.

The author thanks Dr. M. Ramakrishnan, Principal, Dr. Mahalingam College of Engineering and Technology, Pollachi and the authorities of Anna University for their constant encouragement and support till the completion of this research. On a personal level, the author owes a special gratitude to her parents, her husband Mr. P. Muthusamy, sons Mr. M. Karthik, B.E., (M.E.), Mr. M. Kaushik, (B.E.), and others for their boundless love, moral support and encouragement throughout the span of this research.

KAMALAVATHI E