Acknowledgements

This thesis wouldn’t have been possible without the encouragement, guidance and co-operation of my supervisor Dr. Krishnendu Ghosh Dastidar. I sincerely thank and convey my sincere regards to him.

I am greatly indebted to National Institute of Science Technology and Development Studies (NISTADS), New Delhi for providing financial support, cordial working environment, excellent library facility, medical benefits and above all the employee status as applicable to other employees of the NISTADS/CSIR. I am also grateful to NISTADS for giving me opportunity to work with Shri Pradosh Nath, my supervisor at NISTADS.

I must especially thank to Tablu and Bapida not only for their editorial help but also their friendly advice to cheer me up whenever my sprits were down. Discussions with Tablu regarding computer industry were very helpful.

I express my gratitude to my parents, Chotokaka, Mani, Maima, Boudi, Sujadidi, Kaushik and his parents (Kaku and Kakima) for their encouragement, co-operation and for being a constant source of love and inspiration.

However, I am alone responsible for the errors that remain.

\[\text{Amitava Hazra.}\]

(AMITAVA HAZRA)