Acknowledgements

I express my profound gratitude to Dr. B.Dattatreya Sarma, Principal and Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Narayana Engineering College, Nellore for supervising my research work. I thank him for his patience and unstinted support throughout my Ph.D work.

I am extremely thankful to Dr. G.Rangajanardhana, Professor of Mechanical Engineering Department, JNTU College of Engineering, Kakinada for his valuable and inspiring guidance. Also, I am greatly indebted to his constant encouragement, timely suggestions and keen interest during the course of my research work.

I would like to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to Dr. Y.Vijaya Kumar Professor and HOD, Mechanical Engineering Department, Swami Mahaveer Jain College of Engineering, Bangalore for his valuable suggestions during the period of my research work.

I would like to express my gratitude to Dr. P. Jayarami Reddy Director, Dr. B. Srinivasa Reddy, Principal and Management of G. Pulla Reddy Engineering College, Kurnool for giving me support and permission to complete my research work.

I would also like to express my gratitude to Dr. K. Sateesh Babu, Principal, Ravindra Institute of Science and Technology for women, Kurnool for his valuable suggestions.
It is my privilege to thank all the faculty members of the Mechanical Engineering Department, G. Pulla Reddy Engineering College, Kurnool for extending their cooperation and support during my research period.

The encouragement and support provided by my family members have been the major reasons for whatever little I have achieved.

Finally, it is my pleasure to thank all who directly or indirectly helped me during the course of completing the thesis.

G. Sankaraiah