ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to place on record my deep and profound sense of gratitude to my Guide Prof. K. Ilamparuthi, Ph.D., Head, Division of Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering, Department of Civil Engineering, Anna University, Chennai-600 025 for his inspiring guidance and involvement throughout the period of this work till the submission of this thesis. I express my sincere thanks to Dr. A. M Thirumurthy, Professor and Head, Department of Civil Engineering for providing all the departmental facilities. The support provided by Dr. K. Premalatha, Dr. V. K. Stalin, and Dr. Mutharam, Assistant Professors of this division is gratefully acknowledged. The inspiring guidance and encouragement provided by Dr. Bh. Nagabhushana Rao and Dr. K. Muthukrishnaiah, my doctoral Committee members, and Dr. V. Ramamoorthy, Director Research, Anna University, are acknowledged with thanks. The assistance of all the lab staff, Anna University, is accepted with thanks. Thanks are to Shri. B.D. Mundra, Chairman & Managing Director, and Mr. Shankar Guha, Sr.Tech. director, M/S Simplex Infrastructure Limited, for the moral and financial support provided during the entire period. The help provided by Mrs. Karpagam needs a special mention. Thanks to Mr. Gokulpathija of M/s Palace Investments who permitted me to adopt the complex for this research.

The inspiring support and untiring efforts put in by Mr. I.V. Anirudhan, Geo-Technical solutions, in preparation of this thesis need a special mention here and I place on record my deep sense of gratitude to him. The hard work and inspiring efforts of my wife Mrs. B. Gomathy during this period is acknowledged with deep sense of gratitude. The encouragement and support provided by my sons B. Pradeep and B. Prashant is highly appreciated. I am indebted for the blessings of my Parents but for which this work could not have been completed.

V. Balakumar