A few words of profound gratitude to all who have contributed to this thesis. First and foremost let me express my sincere thanks to my supervisor Dr. G Raju, Associate Professor and Head, School of Information Science and Technology, Kannur University, who has been the most influential person, my stronghold and firm support during the past seven years, for his guidance, encouragement and effort throughout this research work without which my Ph.D would never have happened.

My words of gratitude to Dr. R Vijayakumar, Director and Head, School of Computer Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam for his intellectual discussions as well as prompt advice and help.

I am grateful Dr. N Gopukumar, Deputy Secretary, UGC-SWRO for the timely allotment of FIP to complete my PhD work.

With great happiness, I thank Mr. Sreeraj R, Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science, Royal College of Engineering and Technology, Thrissur who helped me to collect the necessary research articles which ultimately made this research a successful one.

It gives me great pleasure to thank Smt. Leena C Sekhar, former Head of the Department, Department of Computer Applications, M.E.S College, Marampally, for her words of encouragement, advice and involvement during all the stages of my research work.

My heartfelt gratitude to the Management, Principal Dr. A Biju, other members of the staff, especially Smt. Jaseena K. U, Head of the Department of Computer Applications, Dr. Sopna V Muhammed, Sri Manzur Ali P P and Dr. Julie
M David of M.E.S College, Marampally for the warm support they have given me during this period.

Let me use my modest words to express my appreciation for Mr. Madhu S Nair, Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science, University of Kerala and Mr. Rajkumar K K, Assistant Professor, School of Information Science and Technology, Kannur University and Smt. Anuj Mohamed, Associate Professor, School of Computer Sciences, M.G University, Kottayam for their valuable guidance, support and inspiration through all my work.

I dedicate this thesis to my parents Sri. Kuttan M V, Smt. Anasooya Kuttan, my wife Suma, and my son Neeraj Krishna for their encouragement, understanding, sufferings, tolerance, support and prayers throughout this work.

Finally I bow my head in worship before the Omnipotent God Who has showered upon me all His blessings for making this dream become a reality.

Sabu M.K