ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author has great privilege and pleasure to express her immense sense of gratitude to Dr. M. L. Singh, Reader and Head, Department of Electronics Technology, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar for his valuable and intellectual guidance throughout the tenure of this work. He has been a motivating and driving force where targets appeared to be arduous during the course of work. The author is highly grateful to Dr. M. S. Patterh, Professor and Head, University College of Engineering, Punjabi University, Patiala for his continuous encouragement and support as a co-supervisor. Without his timely help, constructive criticism, positive attitude and painstaking efforts, it would have been impossible to complete this thesis in the present form.

The author is highly indebted to the Vice Chancellor, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, for giving her an opportunity to carry out the present work in the Department of Electronics Technology of the university. Deep sense of gratitude is acknowledged to Dr. Jaspal Singh, Vice Chancellor, Punjabi University, who was kind enough to sanction study leave to the author to complete her Ph. D. work. Author would like to record her sense of gratitude for the library staff of Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee, Roorkee for their kind co-operation during the literature survey.

Author wishes to thank her friends and colleagues for their moral support and camaraderie help to keep things in perspective. Special thanks to Dr. Lakhwinder Kaur and Mrs. Parveen Lata for their everlasting support. Author would like to express her reverence and great admiration for her family, who have always been the guiding and encouraging force for her. A sense of apology is due to author’s sweet daughter Agamnoor Kaur and loving son Harsimran Singh, who probably missed many precious moments of motherly love and care. The husband of author, Dr. Harpreet Singh, deserves special thanks and grand appreciation for his persistent moral support and capability to rejuvenate the author during the leaning phases of the work. Author is falling short of words to express gratitude to him for the determination shown to bear extra responsibilities during the tenure of this work.

Above all, author is highly indebted to almighty God who blessed her with spiritual support and resilience at each and every stage of this work.

(GURMEET KAUR)