

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I wish to express my gratitude to the Management of Kongu Engineering College for granting permission to carry out the research work. I thank the Principal, the Dean, HOD, faculty and staff of Mechatronics Engineering department for their support. I indebted my sincere gratitude to the Members of the Doctoral Committee, **Dr. T. Thyagarajan** and **Dr. S. Vasantharathna** for their valuable suggestions throughout this research work. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my supervisor, **Dr. K. Krishnamurthy**, for providing invaluable guidance and support during my research study.

My special gratitude is due in good measure to **UGC, New Delhi, India** for providing financial support to carry out this research work. My heartfelt thanks go to **Dr. P. Kandhababa, Dr. R. Parameshwaran, Dr. B. Meenakshipriya, Dr. K. Saravanan, Dr. R. Baskar, Dr. S. Vaithiyanathan**, and **Mr. Ravi** for their continuous help and relentless motivation during my research pursuit.

I am deeply obliged to my husband **Mr. V. P. Viswanthan**, my lovely sons **J. S. Naghul and N. V. Elandhian**, my beloved mother **Mrs. C. Sundarambal** and my sister **Mrs. C. Jayamani** for their endless encouragement and prayers. I must thank my bosom friends, beloved colleagues and relatives who stood by me every step of the way in the pursuit of this doctoral programme.

MAHESWARI C