ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The pursuit of Scientific knowledge is a long, arduous and sometimes an obscure path, but the presence of inspiration and close collaboration of my Supervisor Dr. S. K. Singh, Reader & Head, School of Studies in Statistics, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur, M.P., made it highly illuminating and successful. Language fails me to express my deepest sense of gratitude to my most venerable supervisor, for his kind supervision, benevolent guidance, valuable suggestions and paternal encouragement. Without his illuminating guidance it would have been impossible for me to carry out this research work.

I am extremely thankful to Prof. H. R. Singh, S.O.S. in Statistics and Ex-Vice-Chancellor, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur, M.P., for providing me all the facilities for carrying out the present research work.

I heartily acknowledge a very special debt of gratitude to Dr. Vyas Dubey, Sr. Lecturer, S.O.S. in Statistics, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur, M.P. for his best wishes and moral support that encouraged me to pursue my studies.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Madhya Pradesh Council of Science and Technology (MPCOST), Bhopal, M.P., India, for granting and providing financial assistance to the research project under which the work was initiated and carried out. I am also thankful to all the personnels of concerning industries (Pankaj Oxygen Plant, Simplex India Ltd., Chhattisgarh Steel Ltd., Raipur Alloys, and Bajrang Alloys) who have
helped me in collecting the materials related to the systems, which are already existing there.

I have no words to transcribe my feelings of indebtedness to my father Shri R.P. Singh for blessings and affectionate encouragement. I also express my deep sense of gratitude to my sister Ms. Gayatri Singh and brother Rajesh Kumar Singh and other family members for their support and care.

I am thankful to my colleagues especially to Dr. Sheeba G. Nair, Dr. A.K. Mishra, Ms. Indu Anand, Rahul Bhave, Satyendra Prasad Singh, Vinod Kumar Pathak, Anil Dhar Dubey and Gyanesh Kumar Sahare, who have helped me at various stages of this research work.

Also I would like to express my deep feelings to my loving friend Ms. Lourds Pushparaj for her inspiration and sincere help, when I need the most.

At last I would like to thank all the persons who have helped me directly or indirectly.

Place: Raipur, M.P.

Date: 14/07/98

Krishna Kumar