Dedication.........

With tears in my eyes I dedicate my thesis to the loving memory of my father (Late) M. R. Sudhakaran who was eagerly waiting for the completion of my Ph. D. degree.

To my mother Vanaja Sudhakaran who was always doing more than I needed and expecting nothing in return. She was stable in all the toughest circumstances and took care of me with her silent prayers for my academic and personal life.