ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I acknowledge with deep gratitude and immense pleasure to express my heartfelt thanks to my PhD supervisor Dr. Vijaya Katti, Professor and Chairperson at the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) for her invaluable guidance, support, encouragement and friendly discussions throughout the course of this work. My association with her has been a great learning experience. I shall be always remain highly indebted to her for her inspiration as well as her all the time eager personal involvement in the process of learning, encouraging words, parental affection, taking time to monitor my progress with great enthusiasm, providing the necessary flexibility and moral support to pursue my academic interests with complete freedom.

I am very thankful to Dr. Rakesh Mohan Joshi (Professor and Chairperson, Research) for his supervision and support towards completing this study. I sincerely thank to Dr. Satinder Bhatia, (Professor and Chairperson, IPD), Dr. Sunitha Raju (Professor and Chairperson, GSD) for their suggestions and inputs in the Progress Seminars during the course of this research. I am extremely grateful to my faculties at the IIFT, Dr. Jaydeep Mukherjee, Dr. Debashish Chakraborty, Dr. Biswajit Nag, Dr. Nitin Seth, Dr. Pooja Lakhanpal, Prof. O.P, Wali who provided the valuable inputs, suggestions and advice from time to time during the research period. I would like to thank the research division, computer center specially S. Balasubramanian and library staff at the IIFT for their generous assistance all the time.

I would like to express my deep gratitude to my colleagues at University to Petroleum and Energy Studies for their good wishes, especially to Dr. Anshuman Gupta, HoD for taking out time to monitor my progress with great enthusiasm, and providing the necessary flexibility and moral support to pursue my academic interests with complete freedom.

I extend my special thanks to my friend Upananda Pani and Rahul Nath Choudhury for their active support in collecting and analyzing the data. I have immensely benefitted from the discussions held with them during various stages of the study. Their comments...
have helped me improve the study to a large extent. I am grateful for their cooperation and contribution.

Many of friends have supported and helped me in various ways during the course of the study. My sincere thanks to all friends specially Vineet Gupta, Dr. B.K.Chaturvedi, Manish Yadav, Raja, Rajan, Dr.Aditi, Sajuti, Ritesh, Richa, Avishkar, Manoj and others for assisting and helping me in research. I am very much thankful to the Institute for providing me all necessary assistance in the form of research and guidance.

In particular, I would like to acknowledge the contribution of my most important supporter and personal anchor, my wife Prajakta, who patiently and enthusiastically helped and encouraged me to complete this work. I owe to the spontaneous and unconditional sacrifice of my mother, brothers, sister and relatives for their help and love without which the thesis could not have reached the present form. I humbly acknowledge the help and support of all those people, whose names are not mentioned here.

Nothing would be successful without God, who guides me in my everyday life and activities. I thank the Almighty for bestowing me with good health and guiding me to this end.