Acknowledgement

I deem it my privilege to express my deep sense of gratitude and sincere thanks to my Guide Dr. H.B. Aravinda, Professor and Head of Dept of Civil Engineering, Bapuji Institute of Engineering and Technology Davangere, without whose support it would not have been possible to complete the task.

I remain ever grateful to my Co-Guide Dr. E.T. Puttaiah, Vice Chancellor Gulbarga University, without him this achievement would not have been possible. His constant support was a source of tremendous inspiration, timely advice in right direction have made me to achieve this goal.

I remain thankful to Dr. Srihari, Professor National Institute of Technology, Surathkal for his support and valuable suggestions in conducting the present investigation. I am thankful to the entire Civil Department of NITK Surathkal and in particular Mr. Manohar for his active Co-Operation and help in smooth conduct of the present investigation.

I am thankful to Dr. J. Narayana, Professor, Dr. S.V. Krishnamurthy, Professor, Department of Environmental Science, Kuvempu University for their whole hearted co-operation throughout the period of study. I extend my sincere thanks to the Department of Environmental Science, staff members for their constant help in achieving this uphill task.

I also extend my sincere thanks to Dr. Manjunatha Reddy, Associate Professor, R.V. College of Engineering Bangalore for his whole hearted support and assistance till the end of this task.

I remain ever grateful to Kuvempu University. Shankaraghatta for having provided me the facilities for carrying out the present investigation.

My sincere thanks to all those who have helped me directly or indirectly in successful completion of my work.

Francis Andrade M.