ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I sincerely express my profound gratitude to my research guide and mentor Dr. N.T. Manjunath, Professor, Department of Studies in Civil Engineering, University B.D.T. College of Engineering, Davangere for his invaluable guidance in carrying out this research work. His constant encouragement and steadfast support are highly acknowledged without which this research work would not have been completed. The gratitude to him is external and infinite.

I am thankful to Dr. Shivaprakash P. Dandagi, Principal, University B.D.T. College of Engineering, for providing required research facilities during the research period. I am also thankful to Dr. K.M. Sham Sundar, Professor and Chairman, Department of Studies in Civil Engineering, University B.D.T. College of Engineering for providing required research facilities during the research period.

I am also thankful to Dr. H.R. Prabhakara, Dr. D.P. Nagarjappa and to other teaching and laboratory staff of Civil Engineering Department, University B.D.T. College of Engineering, Davangere who have directly or indirectly encouraged and supported me to complete research work.

I am highly thankful to Managing Trust of Panchajanya Vidyapeeta Welfare Trust, Bangalore.

I submit my sincere thanks to Dr. C. Nanjunda Swamy, Principal, Dr. Ambedkar Institute of Technology, Bangalore who motivated and helped continuously to complete this research work.

I am also thanks to Dr. B. Shivakumara Swamy, Professor and Head, Department of Civil Engineering, Dr. Ambedkar Institute of Technology, Bangalore for his support and encouragement to complete this research work.

Special thanks are due to the Faculty Members and Staff Members of Department of Civil Engineering, Dr. Ambedkar Institute of Technology, Bangalore for their timey support and encouragement.

I am grateful to my Parents Late Smt. Rudramma and Sri. K.P. Virupakshiah for their blessings.
I am highly thankful to Family Members of my Brothers, Sister and In-laws for their support and encouragement.

Finally I submit my appreciation to my wife Smt. B. Asharupini and my daughter M. Nikitha for their support and inspiration throughout this research work.

I also thank Mr. G.P. Sanjeev Kumar of M/s Gundal Computer Center for the meticulous computerized laser typing and styling of this research work.

Place: Davangere
Date: 25-09-14

K.V. MANJUNATHA