ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my guide, Dr. K. S. Gumaste, for the continuous and unconditional support of my Ph.D study, for his patience, motivation and sharing his immense knowledge. His guidance has helped me not only during the research but also during summarizing and writing the thesis. I am fortunate for having him as my Guide and Mentor for my Ph.D Study.

Besides my guide, I would like to thank Dr. G. R. Munavalli, Dr. V. D. Salkar and Dr. P. G. Sonavane for their questions, insightful comments and encouragement given during progress seminar reviews which incented me to setting up direction in research areas. I am thankful to Dr. A. P. Vaidya, Dean R&D, Walchand College of Engineering, Sangli, for support and guidance.

I thank Department of Civil Engineering, Walchand College of Engineering for providing me with the research facilities. My sincere thanks to the Director of Walchand College of Engineering, Sangli, for support during my research work.

I also thank the Office Staff of Walchand College of Engineering for their support in completion of the work.

My sincere thanks to the Management, Sinhgad Institutes, Pune for allowing me to take-up this Ph.D research. My sincere thanks to Department of Civil Engineering, Sinhgad College of Engineering, Pune for providing access to library as well as research laboratory for carrying out experimentation.

The humidity chamber & controlled curing tank used for this research work was made available under funding received from a two consecutive research grant received from Board of College and University Development (BCUD), Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU), Pune My sincere thanks to BCUD (SPPU) for sanctioning the research project and giving me the grant which actually funded this research work.

The results presented in this thesis on experimentation on beam-column joints using loading frame would not have been possible without precious support of Department of Civil Engineering, Maharashtra Institute of Technology, Pune, who gave an access to their research laboratory.

I thank my students for their assistance rendered in setting-up the experiments and carrying out the experimentation.

I am also grateful to have Manjunath Bhogone as a critique, colleague and friend who critiqued and offered sincere support in all stages of research work and thesis writing.

I hereby acknowledge M. S. Salunke, Department of Civil Engineering, Shivaji University, Kolhapur, who have been very kind enough to extend his support at various phases, especially during the phase of the course work.
Last but not least, I would like to pay my deep sense of gratitude towards my family - my parents who developed in me the love for learning in my young age and my in-laws who encouraged pursuing the work in academics and research.

I am also indebted to my husband Pushan, my sons Vedant & Siddhant, who supported me in all possible ways to see the completion of this work.

Above all, I owe it all to Almighty God for granting me the wisdom, health and strength to undertake this research work and enabling me to its completion successfully.

05.06.2017                     Jyoti Pushan Bhusari

Pune