

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I owe a debt of gratitude to my thesis supervisor Dr. Paritosh Biswas for his invaluable guidance at every stage of the preparation of this thesis. Without his constant guidance, support, help and encouragement the present study would not have been possible. I shall never have adequate words to thank him.

I am also grateful to my colleagues and friends for their kindness, support, help and inspiration in various stages of this research work. I shall never have appropriate words to appreciate them.

Thanks also due to Dr. S. S. Chatterjee, the Principal (retired), Dr. A. S. Roy, the Principal, Dr. J. Jhampati, Professor & Head of the Electrical Engineering Department (former Officer-in-Charge), Dr. S. K. Sengupta, Professor & Head (retired) of the Civil Engineering Department, Dr. G. Bairagi, Assistant Professor & Head of the Civil Engineering Department and Dr. B. Guchait, Assistant Professor & Head of the Mechanical Engineering Department of my Institute for their kind administrative, technical, infrastructural support and encouragement for the preparation of this thesis.

To my wife and child I express my deepest appreciation for their inspiration, support, patience, understanding and bearing with me through this venture.

Last of all I am much indebted to the learned Examiner of the original thesis for his valuable comments and observations which immensely help me to revise and improve my thesis before resubmission to the University of North Bengal.