ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

An endeavor is never complete without the guidance and support of the people around us. This venture is no different. I would like to express my profound gratitude to my advisers Professor Dr. P. K. Brahmankar, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Technological University (BATU) and Professor Dr. Sanjay N. Soman, Department of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, for their invaluable encouragement, diligence, adept guidance and untiring efforts that helped me in completing my thesis. It has been a great experience to work under them. I am deeply thankful to them for challenging my project in a systematic manner.

I humbly express my thanks to Dr. K. B. Pai, Ex Head, Department of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering and Ex Dean, Faculty of Technology and Engineering, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, for his concern at every step of my project and providing me the necessary facilities and support. He has always been a source of encouragement.

I am highly grateful to Prof. Parimal Vyas, Honorable Vice Chancellar, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, for providing the opportunity to carry out the thesis work.

I am thankful to Dr. V. Balasubramanian, Professor and Ex. Head, Department of Manufacturing Engineering (CEMAJOR), Annamalai University, Tamilnadu, India, for valuable discussion and first hand guidance to conduct FSW experiment.

I am thankful to all the faculty and staff of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering Department, specifically Dr. V. V. Mathane, Dr. S. D. Kahar, Prof. B. J. Chauhan, Sri. Ramesh Chauhan; for their cooperation during my research work because without their constant support it would have been impossible to complete the thesis in the present form. I also thank Shri M. A. Ekbote, Dr. A. S. Mohite, Shri N. K. Patel, Shri M. P. Datir of Mechanical Engineering Department for their co-operation in the work.

I also express my thanks to Shri Vivek Behl, Shri Rakesh Patil, Shri Robert Mechwan, Shri Ravi Patel for their help in experiment for providing necessary facility.

I express my heartfelt gratitude to Shri R. K. Bhatiya, Asst. Librarian, Prof. T. K. Gajjar Library for providing necessary library facility.

I express my thanks to all those, whose names have not been mentioned individually but have helped me directly or indirectly in this work.

My words leave no bound to express gratitude towards my beloved parents for being there whenever needed. Their blessings and love are the source of my spirit at every moment.

My heartfelt thanks with great pleasure to teachers' in my life, Late Smt. Sitadevi, my mother, who taught me first letter to speak and write; Smt. Rajapurkar who taught me first lesson of English language; and many more who helped me in life upliftment.

Finally, I express my appreciation of the unspoken contribution of Brahmakumaris and more specific, sisters Tarlikadidi, Varshadidi, Jyotididi who had to forego their shares of my being, during this entire period.

Above all, I am thankful to "**The Almighty Shiv Baba**" who has showered his blessings on me to complete my thesis.

Liladhar Kamble