ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I want to express my profound gratitude to my guide Prof. (Dr.) S. S. Bhattacharya, for suggesting the problem and for the valuable guidance. His extensive knowledge, unfailing optimism, and easy nature have made this thesis an exciting and enjoyable experience, which definitely will shape my future. I am also thankful to him for his constant encouragement, kind advice and support throughout my work.

I would like to thank Prof. Arun Pratap, Dean, Faculty of Technology & Engineering, for giving his support. I would like to thank Dr. Tasnim Shaikh, Head, Department of Textile Engineering, for providing me the necessary facilities during my work. I am grateful to, Head of the Chemical Engineering Department for extending laboratory facilities & assistance for carrying out testing work in the department. I sincerely thank Dr. Piyush Gohil, Mechanical Engineering Department for his support. I am grateful to Mr. Darshan Dodia, consultant engineer (Larsen & Toubro) for his help in mathematical modelling and simulation studies.

I express my sincere thanks to staff of Department of Textile Engineering, Faculty of Technology and Engineering for their help during my work. My acknowledgments are also owed to lab mates whose presence made this work move about smoothly. My special thanks go to Bhadreshbhai, Javalebhai, Kirtibhai, Gopibhai, Gamjibhai, Sudhirbhai, Hemang and Siddharth for giving me such a cordial time when working together with them.

Lastly, I would like to thank my family and my parents for all their love and encouragement. My regards go to my father-in-law, Dr. Kishorilal Agrawal and mother-in-law, Hemlata for their constant support during this journey. I thank most of all for my husband, Ashish who has been by my side throughout this PhD and encouraged me throughout my endeavour. I heartfelt thanks to my son, Meet for being such an understanding child and making it possible for me to complete what I started.

They deserve special thanks.

I would like to thank everybody who directly or indirectly involved in the successful completion of this thesis, as well as expressing my apology that I could not mention personally one by one.

Finally, I thank to almighty for his blessings on me forever.....

Thank you all.

Sweety A. Agrawal

October, 2019