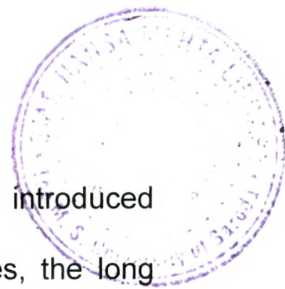


ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



When I see in retrospect the efforts for the doctoral work, which introduced me to front end research with blend of real life field experiences, the long journey had ingredients of motivation, guidance, and encouragement from my guides, colleagues and family apart from behind the curtain, the indirect contributions from well wishers. While the few words in next paragraphs do not really capture my feelings for them, this can only be consider as my attempt to share indebttness towards few of them.

To begin with, it was a privilege to work under the guidance of **Prof. S. M. Joshi**. The striking factors have been the freedom to work and create. He has been equally patient and understanding, especially in periods of trials, in order to see that the work attains a definite quality under his guidance. With complete satisfaction and sincerity, I express my indebttness to him.

With deep sense of gratitude, I acknowledge here the unparalleled and uninhibited mentorship from **Dr. V.R.Kanetkar**, who not only anchored and shaped up my deeper insight in the domain but also helped to blossom the novel ideas from time to time. His untiring support equally well facilitated laboratory results getting extended to the working industrial solutions. His encouragement also helped in translating the contributions into quality publications.

It gives me immense pleasure to applaud **Dr. J.J. Patel**, Head, Corporate R&D, ABB Ltd. for providing me this fabulous opportunity to facilitate my project work at ABB.

I also take the opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to **Mr. & Mrs. S.K.Gosavi**, without their continuous guidance, the dissertation work would have been abortive.

I also would like to acknowledge the counseling and inspiration from **Dr. P. Satyanarayana** to pursue the work.

My sincere thanks to **Mr. Pannalal Biswas, Mr. Jignesh Pandya, Mr. Nishith Patel, Mr. Rakesh Patel, Mr. Maulik Vyas, Mr. Pradeep A, Mr. Niraj Suthar, Mr. Sunil Verma, Mr. Ujjaval Joshi, Mr. Vinesh Kapadia, Mr. Vishal Shah, Mr. Yogin Joshi, Mr. Sunil Patel, Mr. Darshit Prajapati and Mr. Praveen Vadhiyar** for their inexpressible support in bringing out my dissertation work to a fruitful shape.

Without fail I express my gratitude to my employer **M/s ABB Ltd.**, which gave me an opportunity to broader engineering base and all the members of Electronics lab, R&D ABB Ltd., for their continuous motivation in the success of my dissertation work.

Finally, I offer my most sincere, humble and profound gratefulness to my wife, **Mrs. Hetal V. Shah**, for shouldering the entire responsibilities on home front and encouraging me to fulfill my aim despite the sufferings throughout this long period. Sweet love, to my daughters, **Shailee and Riddhee**, they also withstood my extended hours away from home and allowed me to complete the work.

Vijay Kanchanlal Shah