Acknowledgement

I take this opportunity to express my deep sense of gratitude to Prof..N. Subrahmanyam, my guide, for all the encouragement, freedom and help he has provided me during the course of this work. Without his support and constructive criticism this work would not have taken shape. I will remain indebted to him for the research outlook he provided to me.

I would like to thank the Head of Chemical Engineering Department for providing all the necessary facilities required to carry out this work.

I am thankful to Gujarat Refinery, Vadodara for providing me with unblended kerosene, hydrocracker diesel and other solvents; Cognis Ireland, for providing me samples of LIX reagents; Cytec Canada for samples of CYANEX reagents, Mohini Organics Mumbai; for samples of Monesan surfactant and Zydex Industries Baroda for providing me facilities for emulsion formulation and samples of Acrylate emulsifiers.

I appreciate the gesture of Mr. Mike Virnig, Director of Technology Cognis Corporation for providing me valuable information regarding the LIX reagents. I am also thankful to B. S. International, Mumbai, for arranging the LIX samples and Mr. S. More of Cytec India, for arranging the CYANEX samples.

I am extremely thankful to my friends Dr. Kritika K. Sawant and Dr. Anuradha Nerurkar who not only took keen interest in my work but were instrumental in keeping my morale high all the time. I am highly thankful to Prof. Surekha Devi, Prof. A.K.Rakshit, Dr. B.Chandani and Dr Rajashree Mashru for their help at different junctures of this work.

I wish to record my sincere thanks to Dr.D.C.Vakaskar and Dr. D.P.Patel for helping me out with the discretization of model equations presented in this work.

I am grateful to Prof. K. S. Gandhi, I.I.Sc, Bangalore, who despite his busy schedule found time to discuss various aspects of this work with me and provided me with insight on surfactant behavior.

I am thankful to the Department of Pharmacy and the Department of Microbiology of The M.S.University of Baroda for extending their instrumental facilities that were necessary in

this work.

I am thankful to the AICTE for providing grants under their R & D scheme that helped in procuring the instrumental facilities without which this work would never have taken

shape.

I am thankful to Mr. Ravi Makhija for his interest and involvement in photographing the emulsion dispersions. I wish to record my deep appreciation for the help I received from Mr. Lalit Thakur in the formatting of the thesis. I also thank my students Mr Mahal Patel and Mr. Mayur Sathe for their help in this work.

I am thankful to Dr. R.Sengupta, my husband, for his encouragement and help through out this work without which this thesis would not have been completed. I would like to thank my daughter Mira, for her cooperation and help in many facets of this work.

Finally I would like to thank all who directly or indirectly helped me in completing this work.

Bina Sengupta.