

DEDICATION

With plenty of love and gratitude,

I wholeheartedly dedicate this thesis to

my respected and most loving

'Mummy-Papa' and 'Mother in Law-Father in Law'

my better half I my life-line 'Abhishek',

my adorable daughter 'Abhikriti'

and my whole family,

all of whom made this work possible through their unending

love and support.

