

## DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to my parents. My father, late **Shri Mukeshkumar G. Joshi** did not only raise and nurture me but also taxed himself dearly over the years for my education and intellectual development. Incidentally he met his demise before the moment I could finish this thesis but I am sure he will be the happiest one in heaven seeing me finishing this thesis. My mother, **Vinaben M. Joshi** has been a source of motivation and strength during moments of despair and discouragement. Her motherly care and support have been shown in incredible ways in hard times. I thank you both for always understanding, having patience, giving right advice and having faith in me. I hope I have made you proud with this work.