Acknowledgments

I am deeply indebted to everyone who has supported, guided and advised me, and without whom this thesis project would not have been possible. In first place I wish to thank my guide Prof. K. K. Pandey for his useful comments, theoretical guidance and inputs provided to me to complete the dissertation. I am also thankful to my course director Dr. Sujata Singh for all the practical guidance, personal support & motivation, giving me the chance to carry out this research work. I would also like to express my thanks and gratitude to Shri. Kulbushan (Advisor, Railway Board) for his technical advice, suggestions and confidence shown in me, without which this study could not have been possible.

In addition I wish to express my gratitude all my Railway colleagues specially Shri. Mohit Chandra, Shri. B. Umesh Rai, who have helped me immensely by giving me their time & providing me with valuable data. I am also thankful to all the officers & supervisors of Electric Rolling Stock department of Delhi Division in sparing their time to answer my quarries and providing practical inputs about train operations.

I will also like to thank Shri B.S. Baswan, Director, IIPA for his everlasting morale support & IIPA for providing all the institutional support. I owe a big word of thanks to all staff of IIPA, New for their pleasant nature and help throughout my course. I also place on record my thanks to my parent organization Indian Railways for nominating me for this course and providing me this learning opportunity.

Last but not least, I need to express my thanks to the invaluable support received from my wife Namita, who was there for me whenever I needed and my parents for their constant support and encouragement at any stage of my work.

Satish Kumar. Kashyup February 2010 New Delhi