ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First and foremost, I owe deep sense of gratitude to my Research Guide Dr. C.S. Shreshthi (Shetti), who has been the key source of inspiration to me. His precious guidance and utmost patience at every stage of the present research work is highly appreciable. His concern for research and scholarly guidance for completion of this thesis cannot be adequately acknowledged. I ought to say only that this thesis would not have seen the light of the day without his constant and invaluable guidance.

My sincere gratitude and deep reverence to Principal Dr. Babasaheb Khot, and Mr. A.B. Kasar, Former Principal of Shri Venkatesh Mahavidyalaya, Ichalkaranji and Dr. B. M. Hirdekar, Ex-Controller of Examinations, Shivaji University and Dr. Suresh S. Gavali, Principal of Yashwantrao Chavan (K.M.C.) College, Kolhapur who kindled the interest for research in my mind and kept on inspiring me.

The thesis would not have come to a successful completion without help of Mr. Shivkumar Rachayya Hiremath, (The Investment Adviser of Hiremath Investments, Rajarampuri, Kolhapur), Joindre Capital Services, Kotak Securities, Indiabulls, Investment Advisers and Chartered Accountants in Kolhapur, Ichalkaranji, Jaysingpur, Kagal, Gadhinglaj, Hatkakngale and other taluka places in the district who helped in tracing mutual fund investors in Kolhapur district. I acknowledge and appreciate their great help in this connection. I extend my thanks to ‘Bagicha Group’ (Morning Walkers’ Group of Mahavir Garden) through whose chain I could reach to a number of small entrepreneurs, traders, professionals, employees, retired personnel in Kolhapur district and collect primary data.
I would like to place on record the deep sense of appreciation towards my colleagues and esteemed academic friends Haridas Shinde, Diliprao. Charapale, and also Dr. M.M. Ali (Director, SIBER), Dr. Shoukat Bojgar, (Senate Member) , Dr. Sudhir Patil, (Chairman of Board of Studies in Business Management of Shivaji University) for their encouragement and good wishes.

I am beholden to the reputed authors on Finance, Financial Services, Investment Management, Mutual Funds, Business Research, Business Statistics and Research Methodology from whose books I have taken many inputs and references. Equally important that many articles have enlightened me on various issues relating the theme of my research work, whose authors invariably deserve the considerable share of gratitude. I extend my thanks to Mr. R.R. Patil, Librarian of Shri Venkatesh Mahavdiyalaya, Ichalkaranji, Mr. S.P. Pawar, Librarian, of CSIBER, Kolhapur, for making me available the necessary books and periodicals as and when needed.

I express my sincere thanks to the staff and office bearers of Kolhapur Investors’ Association for providing me authentic data and information about investment culture in Kolhapur district.

With pride I admit that I am indebted to my parents Ashraf and Makbool for their unfailing support, encouragement and everlasting blessings.

Last but not the least I appreciate the efforts of Mubin Naushad Mujawar, my son, who helped me in typesetting and Mujib Kutty of Limrass Computer Institute, Ichalkaranji who helped for printing and binding of thesis.

Place: Kolhapur     (Naushad Makbool Mujawar)
Date: June, 26, 2014