Acknowledgements

Conversion of a rough, tough and a hard-core technocrat-cum-administrator-cum-regulator into a research scholar in the evening of his life could be the handiwork of only a Master Magician and nothing short of a miracle. But the miracles do happen in life. This was one such happening.

Tangential breakaway from a charted career course into an entirely unknown and unfamiliar territory of academics did lead to moments of consternation and revolt only to be subdued by singular divine calling that whatever is happening cannot happen without the Will or the Supreme Maaj of the Supreme Being Huzur Radhasoami Dayal and in that alone lies the best temporal and spiritual benefit. This Thesis cannot be but a product of such divine intervention.

Kyun kar karun shukrane main unke Phir phir shukrane karte hain
Kyun kar karun shukrane main unke

How may I thank Him enough? I thank again and again
How may I thank Him enough?

This humble attempt is the product of poor Apara Vidya of the subject desperately trying to understand Para Vidya, tearfully begging and praying for Supreme Grace and Mercy in doing so. I have tried to be careful while citing from the Holy Books and translating them wherever necessary. I own full responsibility and place my sincere apologies on record for the mistakes that may have crept into such inadvertent citations and translations. I, in all humility, acknowledge my gross inadequacies, incompetence and inabilitys in doing full justice to the mandate given to me.

My Supervisor, Prof. Sanjeev Swami was always there when I needed him. A thoroughbred academician, he has been guiding, helping and encouraging me constantly through this time. He was there when I had a problem and he was understanding, helpful and ready with the solution. He is so meticulous and keen about small details that he would not have any spelling, grammar or punctuation mistakes. My reliance on him has been total. I am beholden to him and continue to look forward to having more meaningful interactions with him even after submission of the thesis. Prof. S.K. Sharma of the Department of Management deserves a special ‘Thank You’ for his overwhelming support in academia logistics.

Prof. P. Sriramamurti, my Co-supervisor has been a source of strength and solace in my low moments and counseling the change from a free-lancer to a disciplined student like an astute potter who knows how to mould clay into a vessel. A soft-spoken but a well-meaning scholar of theology, he has lent highly useful experiential insights into the extensive literature review in Chapter 2 of the thesis. Indeed, I owe it to him to bring me out first from my blessed retirement back into the student days and then giving to the thesis a rich hue of maturity and wisdom. My grateful thanks to him!

My heart goes out to Late Mr. Subedar Singh, General Manager in the Department of Agriculture who provided deep insights into the management of the Farm. Though, he is no longer with us, the high standard of Seva set by him is going to be a beacon light for others to follow. My grateful thanks are also due to Prof. Bhojwani, Prof. B.M. Gupta, Prof. K. Hans Raj and Dr. Dayal Prasad Srivastva for their very useful inputs in the study.

My heartfelt gratitude is due to Mr. Soami Dayal Singh, Assistant Secretary-cum-Chief Audit Officer of the Sabha who arranged the logistics, and Mr. G.P. Satsangi, Secretary, Radhasoami
Satsang Sabha, who facilitated early approvals and permissions for this Research Project from the Sabha.

I would also like to say big ‘Thank You’ to all the 223 respondents who willingly and voluntarily took time out to fill up and return the questionnaires. Without their clear responses, this project would not have seen the light of the day.

My acknowledgements would be incomplete without fond mention of my wife Vijay but for whose ungrudging and logistical support, I could not manage and survive in the harsh and turbid world of academics. She has been mercifully compensated adequately, in return, with unlimited opportunities of Satsang and Seva through this period.

Being an insider has been an advantage. However, much as one may try, one cannot altogether rule out the biases that may have crept unintentionally in the research work of this type, visible to a keen eye. The road to the Doctorate has not been an easy one. Dayalbagh routine and the studies had to find their own equilibrium or disequilibrium to my great chagrin. Nevertheless, infinite Grace and Mercy in affording unlimited opportunities for Satsang and Seva through this period cannot be thanked enough by a sinning mortal like me. Every pore of my being is under eternal debt to the Lotus Charans of my Lord.

Shanti Sarup Gupta