PREFACE

When I joined teaching profession in 2005, my objective was to ‘create and disseminate knowledge through continuous two way learning, research and consultancy’. In order to fulfill one of the most important aspect of this statement i.e. research, I decided to join Ph.D. in January 2010. However, though I faced constraints, mainly on account of certain uncontrollable circumstances that one faces in life, my aspiration for this highest academic qualification did not wither. Though it took a little longer to start on my path, I could finally register myself at Sardar Patel University VallabhVidyanagar for the topic of “Investment Behaviour in Mutual Funds: Empirical Study in Gujarat with Specific Reference to Behavioural Finance”, under the guidance of Prof. H. J. Jani.

It has not been an easy journey, with my time divided between my family, my profession and my passion to pursue Ph.D. As a professor, I find that the present academic scenario is extremely competitive and demanding. In spite of the challenges, I managed to work things out and my Ph.D. progress reports during the last three years stands as testimony to it. As a contributing member of the institute and its vision, I set my priorities, followed my entire service obligation and never allowed the research work to overshadow my role and responsibilities.

Degree of ‘Doctor of Philosophy’ from Sardar Patel University was my ultimate choice in this regards as it is one of the premier university of the country and recognized across the nation. The present Ph.D. research work has been undertaken with a view to contribute to the institute’s vision, achieve my personal objective and work towards the development of the society as whole. I consider myself extremely fortunate and blessed to belong to this elite class of few.

One of the objectives of Ph.D. is to facilitate the research scholar’s teaching and research capabilities as well as improving substantive knowledge on specific areas of management. The present research work has definitely enhanced my research skills and experience to research.

The present thesis is based on extensive literature review carried out from variety of sources mainly books, journals, magazines and collection of e-resources generated during my participation in 32 Faculty Development Program in management organized by Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA). I have taken utmost care to quote the original source/ author as either as a footnote or in the bibliography or at both the places. I express my sincere thanks to all the original
contributors for providing with a direction to work on. However, if inadvertently, I have forgotten to mention some sources, I express my apology to the original contributor of these sources.

I have tried for perfection and have left no stone unturned to prepare this thesis. I hope that the work presented here will be helpful to the scholars, researchers, organizational managers and other interested entities for their future work/decision in the area of investment behaviour in mutual fund in particular. I also sincerely hope that my present research experience paves way for achieving the third part of my objective, i.e. to undertake consultancy.

Chetna V Chapadia
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I firmly believe that it is Lord who has done this gigantic task as he is ‘Karta – The Doer’ of everything and whose wishes run supreme to any action happening in any sphere of universe. I certainly feel blessed by almighty.

In pursuing my Ph.D. and developing this thesis, I have received contributions, help, and support from my number of friends, associates, scholars, researchers, organizations and my students. Also, I wish to express my sincere thanks to my Guru in the form of guide Prof. (Dr.) H. J. Jani (Ex. Director G.H. Patel Post Graduate Institute of Management, MBA program, Sardar Patel University) who has been shaping my academic development and academic career. I have learnt and developed skills under his influence and so with all sincerity, I bow and prostate to him and express my gratitude for his scholarly, inspiring, incessant efforts and patronage. In spite of his responsibilities as Pro Vice Chancellor of C.U. Shah University, he has helped me at all the odd times to accomplish this research successfully. His affectionate and guiding behaviour has actually paved way for my smooth, high-level academic interaction with a lot of learned people.

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I feel indebted to my respected parents for providing their continuous inspiration and motivation to complete this research work. I heartily thank my husband Mr. Rajesh Makwana, had been and considerate to me throughout my research work. I have felt the divine presence of the almighty whenever my daughter, Aarya has prayed for my success.

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