Acknowledgments

There are numerous people who have contributed to and facilitated in the completion of this doctoral thesis. I would like to express my gratitude to them.

Foremost of all, I express my sincere appreciation and deep debt of gratitude to Professor Dhawal Mehta, my guide for his valuable guidance, encouragement, intellectual criticism and constructive suggestions right from the inception to the completion of this thesis.

I thank Goddess Saraswati, who saw me this day, after I dropped the idea of giving up my studies after schooling.

I thank my father late Gopalchandra, mother Subha, family friend Mrs Ruth F Cooke for providing me constant inspiration.

I thank library staff of VSL at IIMA Mr Ashok Jambhekar, Mr SJ Trivedi and others as well as librarian of BKSBM Mrs Arunaben Thakkar for having me availed library facilities fruitfully.

I thank Mrs Beena S Handa, my ex-boss, Prof VL Mote, IIMA and Prof S Vathsala, IIMA for helping me with the outline of my research and the questionnaire used in conducting the field research.

I thank Shri Sanjay Lalbhai, Managing Director, Arvind Mills; Shri CY Pal, Ex-Chairman & Managing Director, Cadbury; Shri RC Bhargava, Manag-
ing Director, Maruti Udyog Limited; Shri Champaklal Shah, Chairman, Asian Paints, Shri MK Desai, Ex-Managing Director, Calico Mills and senior executives of the respondent organizations for having spared their precious time and sharing with me some of the insights regarding the functioning of the top level management and strategic management.

Last but not the least, I thank, my brothers Prashanta, Suhrid and Bikranta for providing me the moral and material support to sustain continuing and completing my thesis; my long-suffering wife Mina, who apart from enduring hours of solitude, has also sustained me with empathy and encouragement during my periods of disappointment, gloom, confusion, illusion and madness; and our lovely daughter Lira, and sons Rouble and Ringitt who had to accept periods of enforced silence and an absentee father ever since their births.

The responsibility for the short-comings, drawbacks and errors, if any, is mine alone.

Sunil Bopalchandra Samanta
B.K. School of Business Management
Gujarat University
Ahmedabad

February 1996