STATEMENT - I

Importance and Relevance of the present work and its contribution to the general advancement of knowledge.

The present study of Sanskrit commentary "Vaiśṇava-Vallabhā" on the Vāsudeva Mahātmyam has escaped from the eyes of national as well as international scholars because it is written by very little known Sanskrit scholar of Gujarat viz. Śāstri Dinānāth Bhatt. The commentary "Vaiśṇava-Vallabhā" (V.V.) is very important for the Swaminārāyaṇa sect of Hinduism. The Swaminārāyaṇa sect is prevalent in Gujarat since last two centuries and now it has crossed the borders of India and becoming popular in several foreign countries also.

"Vaiśṇava-Vallabhā" a commentary on the Vāsudeva Mahātmyam is written by Śāstri Dinānāth Bhatt in accordance with the direct consultation of Lord Swaminārāyaṇa and hence the commentary becomes an important authentic text for the Swaminārāyaṇa sect. In present study I have tried to bring out the important contribution of Gujarat to the Sanskrit literature of Purānic genre. This study also intends to bring out the indebtedness of the latter texts of the Swaminārāyaṇa sect to the Vāsudeva Mahātmyam in particular and Purāṇas in general.

The present study intends to analyse various aspects of the Swaminārāyaṇa sect, which are of religious as well as philosophical nature. The Vāsudeva Mahātmyam is a treatise on the devotional tenets of Vaiśṇavism. It forms a part of the Skanda Purāṇa. The thesis also intends to cover a wide field of examining the various aspects of the Vaiśṇava philosophy as compared to the Swaminārāyaṇa sect and its philosophy.

Its importance is obvious by the fact that the religious sect of Swaminārāyaṇa has accepted the Vāsudeva Mahātmyam as one of the eight authoritative texts for their sects and hence its Sanskrit and Gujarati commentaries are published about hundred years ago: Thus present study tries to focus light on the Ramanuja’s Viśiṣṭādvaita philosophy which accepted by Swaminārāyaṇa sect. This study will also be helpful to those who want to understand the main tenets of Swaminārāyaṇa philosophy.

Thus, the proposed work will also contribute substantially to the contributions of Gujarat to the Sanskrit commentarial literature.