The present study is divided into seven chapters. The first chapter introduced the whole study. It describes the functions and importance of the stock market in a nutshell. In this chapter discussion has been made in respect of determinants of the share prices and causes of its fluctuations. A brief note on the stock index and its representative nature has been thought relevant. The problem of determining return in a place like stock market has been demonstrated with due care. In respect of determining return the issue of volatility and the investment horizon have been elaborated. The last section of the chapter enlists the other chapters of the study.

The second chapter discussed the economic scenario in Indian context. Some salient features of the stock market have been stated. In this context, the efficiency as well as the systematic pattern of the stock market led us to a proposition that is contradictory to a proposition which arises out of the issue of irrationality (and scope to exploit it. This raises the question whether the long-term return from Indian stock market is zero or positive. Finally, the objective of the study of determining long-term return has been stated clearly and unequivocally.

The third chapter is related to literature survey. At the outset, adequate reference about the independence of share price has been cited. The efficiency of different stock markets of the world with special reference to India has been referred to. The literature related to dependencies of the share price with respect to micro and macro fundamental has been discussed with due emphasis. Again, the dependencies as regards prior price itself has also been mentioned. The literature
related to over-reaction and mean reversion in the stock market has also been discussed. The literature related to impact of economic liberalisation on stock market in India has been dealt with due importance. Finally, the research gap has been observed that there is no study on the long-term return from Indian stock market.

The fourth chapter is about data and methodology. The chapter starts with reason for selecting stock indices. The monthly closing price has been taken for the purpose of study. The period of the study has been taken from January 1991 to December 2004. The study suggests comparing the growth of Indian stock index with the growth of other stock indices of the world. A brief note on Indian stock indices and stock indices of other countries has been provided with. This section ends with mentioning the source of data.

In the methodology part, the widely used point-to-point growth rate calculation has been severely criticized in detail. Then growth rates of stock indices have been determined on the basis of log value method and moving average method. In case of log value method only linear equations has been applied. In case of moving average method, the data series of the stock indices are to make average with the moving average rule. Then it is required to check the autocorrelation problem in the data series. If, autocorrelation problem exist, then Kochrane–Orcutt two-stage procedure would have to be applied to remove the problem. Ten different forms of equations have been applied in the processed data. The best-fitted equation has been chosen to determine the slope of the stock index and consequent growth rate of the stock index. Two methods would yield two different sets of growth rates. A comparison has been made between the two methods. Because of the high
level of volatility in the stock market, reliability of the growth rate of the stock
indices has to be checked. In this respect, determination the degree of mean
reversion has been given due importance. An attempt has been made to test the
mean reversion with the help of a new instrument. Finally, the determination of
dividend yield and total return per annum from the stock market has been asked to
determine.

The fifth chapter is related to analysis of the data. At the beginning, the growth rate
of Indian stock indices along with the growth rate of stock indices of other ten
countries has been determined under log value method. After that the growth rates
of those stock indices have been determined under the moving average method.
In case of both the Indian stock indices, Sensex and Nifty, it has been found that
linear equation has been statistically significant in case of log value method.
Though R squared is less than 0.5 in both the cases. On the other hand, all the ten
equations have been found statistically significant for both Sensex and Nifty. The
R squared and adjusted R squared has been over 0.9 in most of the cases. The
growth rate ranges from 2.4% to 5.6% depending upon the stock indices and the
method applied. Comparing the nature of distribution of the stock indices data
series, it has been found that moving average data are more applicable for
statistical calculation. A new instrument has been tested to detect mean reversion
in the data series. The (growth / Coefficient of Variation) ratio of the Indian stock
indices ranges from 8% -10.7%. The dividend yield per annum during the period
of study from Indian stock indices has been found to be around 4%.

The sixth chapter is related to the findings and observations of the study. The
study found that the growth of Indian stock indices is among the lowest in the
world. In fact, Asian stock indices have been found to be the poor performer during the period of study. However, both the Sensex and Nifty demonstrate positive growth rate that is not less than 2.4% in any stock indices in any of the methods. Again, no Indian stock indices have registered a growth rate over 6%. It is observed that there is marked difference in growth rates in two methods specially in case of Indian stock indices. It is further observed that there is marked difference in growth rates in both the methods. But, on the basis of nature of distribution and the R squared it has been found that the moving average method is more reliable. It is further observed that mean reverting tendency is highest in case of Indian stock indices. This probably might be the reason for lower rate of return in moving average method in comparison to log value method. The total return from Indian stock indices has been found to be less than 10% in any case.

The findings of the study have several implications on the existing literature and on the investors. The findings has also raised question about the decision of the government to allow superannuation benefit fund into the stock market. The study has offered several suggestions towards different concerned sections of the society.

The last chapter summarises the whole study. It contains the limitations of the present study for not taking larger time frame and the study has mentioned the scope for further research. Finally, the study concludes with a note that share market is not a 'Casino' or a place for winning jackpot or gamble. It is a place for efficient and knowledgeable investors and traders for expecting a decent return at least in the long run.