Acknowledgements

I would like to take the opportunity to express my sincere thanks to my guide Dr. H. B. Kekre Senior Professor, Mukesh Patel School of Technology Management and Engineering, SVKM’s NMIMS for his invaluable support and guidance throughout my research work. I am indeed indebted to him for appreciating my efforts and providing valuable inputs which helped me mitigate many typical problems faced.

I am grateful to him for the feedback which helped me track and schedule the process effectively. The time, ideas and encouragement that he gave is appreciable.

I would also like to thank Dr. D. J. Shah, Dean, Mukesh Patel School of Technology Management and Engineering, SVKM’s NMIMS for lending his support. This thesis would not have being completed without the constant support of my in laws Mr. D. T. Sarode and Mrs. Malti D. Sarode I am very grateful to them. Special thanks go as well to Mr. Kiran D. Sarode for his affection and understanding. I express my gratitude to Sudeep D. Thepade for his constant help and encouragement. I am also grateful for the assistance provided by Saylee Garge, Vinayak Bharadi, Dhirendra Mishra, Pallavi Halarnkar and my friends. I am obliged to my parents and my babies Kush and Palash.

I value the guidance, feedback and contributions by all those who have directly and indirectly helped me.

Ms. Tanuja K. Sarode