Acknowledgements

This has been my third attempt at PhD during my almost three and a half decades of career in the development sector. On both the previous occasions, a change of job that came along with much higher responsibilities pushed my research to the background, although more than half the work was done each time. Retrospectively, I feel that it was basically a choice that I had made between livelihood and professional commitment, and pursuing research. One may also call it inability to prioritise, as some of my close professional associates say. In any case, this time, pursuing my PhD was fraught with the biggest challenge of my life—a long concurrent phase of personal agony. As the so-called Almighty destined for me, research was one activity that I could pursue with single minded objectivity, although with breaks, and here I am. Working for a doctorate has been more of a personal ambition for me.

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It is perfectly possible that I have missed out someone there. My sincere apologies!

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Srinivas Mudrakartha