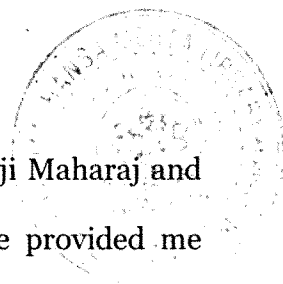


## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



I offer my sincere gratitude to Anant Shri Sadguru Sadafaldeoji Maharaj and Sadguru Shri Swatantra Deoji Maharaj whose blessings have provided me with the continuous vigor to progress.

This research study is the outcome of inspiration, encouragement, support and help that I have received from my supervisor, Professor (Dr) Samir Joshi, who has supported me throughout my thesis with his patience and knowledge whilst allowing me the space to work in my own way. He helped me come up with the thesis topic and guided me over the years of development. I attribute this thesis to his encouragement and effort; without him this thesis would not have been completed or written. One simply could not wish for a more motivating and supportive supervisor and a trainer.

Professor Ravindra Dholakia, IIM-Ahmedabad, has offered much advice and insight throughout my work. His advice has always aided in resolving the tangling queries in my research. I am thankful to him for helping me in getting the library access at IIM-Ahmedabad. Professor Kiran Pandya, Veer Narmad South Gujarat University, Surat, Ms Smruti Bulsari, Veer Narmad South Gujarat University, Surat, Professor Kishor Joshi, Bhavnagar University, and Professor Rakesh Shrivastav, Department of Statistics, Faculty of Science, The M S University of Baroda have provided me with their useful inputs on the statistical and econometric front for the thesis. How can I not mention Dr K. Shanmugan, Department of Business Economics, Faculty of Commerce, The M S University of Baroda who has always guided me in understanding the

econometric aspects in the study of economics. I am grateful to Professor Walid Hejazi, Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto, who has always come to my rescue whenever I needed his guidance. Professor A S Rao, Department of Economics, Faculty of Arts, The M S University of Baroda and Professor D V Baloni, Department of Business Economics, Faculty of Commerce, The M S University of Baroda have always been there to guide me through the theoretical and analytical aspects for the thesis. I am thankful to them for their encouragement and advice. In many ways I have learnt much from them.

I am indebted to Ms Hemangini Soni, Department of Statistics, Faculty of Commerce, The M S University of Baroda for her initial insights to work upon the data analysis. I am thankful to Shri B C Patel, Department of Economics, Faculty of Arts, The M S University of Baroda and Shri Mayank Rai, Population Research Centre, The M S University of Baroda for their endless and timely guidance and efforts in working with SPSS.

The support from José A. Tavares, Associate Professor, Faculdade de Economia, Universidade Nova de Lisboa and Professor Marius Brülhart, Department d'économétrie et économie politique (DEEP), University of Lausanne, has been very useful for getting many articles which could not be downloaded. I am extremely grateful for their timely support.

The library facilities and the computer facilities of The M S University have been indispensable. I am also thankful to the librarian and the staff of libraries at IIM-Ahmedabad, Institute of Economic Growth – Delhi, Delhi School of

Economics, Delhi University, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi and Robarts Library of University of Toronto, Canada for extending their support in browsing the materials at the library and for the books exchange facilities provided to me. I am thankful to my colleagues at the Faculty for their useful suggestions.

Finally, I thank my parents and my sister for their continuous support and encouragement and many others for their immense support throughout my research.