

Acknowledgement

Undertaking this research has been tremendous learning experience for me and it would not have been possible to accomplish this endeavor without the motivation and guidance of many people who supported me in diverse ways.

First and foremost, I am extremely grateful to my guide Dr. Hitesh Bhatia for his continuous guidance, relentless support, patience, motivation and assistance in overcoming all the hurdles. Time and again I faced during my journey for the research. His systematic approach for research writing, prompt follow-ups and guidance at each step and crossroad was instrumental to sail through this humongous task. He inspired me to be perseverant and made me realize to believe in my capability.

My sincere gratitude to Dr. Nirlesh Kothari, Former Dean, School of Business and Law, Navrachana University, he was instrumental in finalizing the title and identifying the scope of research work. I would also like to express my gratitude to Dr. Shailendra Vyakarnam, Founding Director, Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning, University of Cambridge for introducing me to the concept of entrepreneurial self-efficacy.

I am thankful to Navrachana University for providing me opportunity to undertake my Ph.D. and offering conducive environment for conducting research. I would like to express my gratitude to the entire team of Ph.D. program at Navrachana University, specially Dr. Mandira Sikdar, Program Chair, for her guidance and administrative support. I am also thankful to the heads of various institutes who allowed me to interact with their students for the purpose of data collection. I would like to acknowledge the time spent by entrepreneurs in sharing their views during in-depth interviews. Many thanks to all the members of Doctoral Review Committee for providing their guidance, feedback and perspective which helped in enriching the research work at various phases.

A very special thanks to my colleagues who encouraged constantly and motivated me in each phase. Development of Research Instrument would not have been insightful without their inputs. I am grateful to my close friends for their unconditional support and consistent motivation.

Last but not the least, I am highly indebted to my family for their extra-ordinary support in this endeavour. My deepest sense of gratitude to my parents, Dr. G.D.Taneja and Mrs. Seema

Taneja who encouraged me to initiate this research and provided moral support throughout this journey, my brother, Vidit Taneja who selflessly helped me in various phases specially in data collection. I am also very grateful to my family, Mr. N. K. Chawla and Mrs. Seema Chawla for their relentless support and Dr. Arushi Chawla for encouraging and cheering up to keep going in this endeavor. My heartfelt gratitude to my husband, Mr. Tarun Chawla for his constant emotional support in this journey, believing in me, inspiring me for professional pursuit and never letting me quit. Last and deepest gratitude to my daughter, Prisha, her innocent quest inspired me to accomplish this major landmark of my life.

Neha Taneja Chawla

(Research Scholar)

Date : 4th February 2022

Place : Vadodara