ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Research is to see what everybody else has seen, and to think what nobody else has thought.

-Albert Szent-Gyorgyi

The success and final outcome of this research required a lot of support and assistance from many people and I am extremely privileged to have got this all along.

At the outset I would like to bow in reverence to almighty God **Shri Gajanan** for all the blessings.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my Guide **Prof. Hemchandra Pradhan** for his continuous support during my research work, for his patience, motivation, and immense knowledge. His guidance helped me all the time of research and writing of this thesis. I could not have imagined having a better mentor for my Doctoral Research. I would also thank to my Co-Guide **Dr. Elizabeth Robin** to guide me well throughout the research work from title's selection to finding the results. Her immense knowledge, motivation and patience have given me more power and spirit to excel in the research writing.

Besides my guides, I would like to thank **Dr. Mandira Sikdar,** Coordinator, PhD Program for her insightful comments and encouragement.

One person without whom this PhD would not have seen a light of a day is my wife **Dr. Anshula Deshpande**, who was always there as a vital part of this process with her valuable inputs, suggestions.

I extend my heartfelt thanks for **Dr. Medha Kalyan**, Asso. Professor, Department of Management, Sumandeep Vidyapeeth, Vadodara for her guidance and support in statistical work.

I avail this opportunity to render my gratefulness to Navrachana University,

Vadodara for providing the platform to do this research work and Sumandeep

Vidyapeeth (Deemed to be University) for permitting and supporting me during this

research.

I would like to specially mention the invaluable contribution of the Experts in the field

of Dentistry, **Administrators** from Dental bodies and the **participants** of this research.

I would also express my thankfulness to all the authors of the research articles and

intellectual material used in this research as their work immensely helped in shaping

my research and thesis writing.

I would like to thank my father Mr. Chandrahas Deshpande for being constant source

of inspiration and support during al ups and downs in life. Any achievement would

have been incomplete without mention of my mother Mrs. Manik Deshpande, who

has always been showering her blessings from heavenly abode.

I would also like to acknowledge the support of my sons Advay and Dhruv along with

other members of my family for the encouragement.

I take this opportunity to extend my sincere appreciation to all those who made this

Ph.D. thesis possible.

Dr. Neeraj Deshpande

ii