



## **BITING THE SILVER BULLET**

**Senthil Kumar**

### **Genesis**

To be honest to myself, I never thought of taking up doctoral studies despite the fact that my mother, Dr. Thayabarasundari, was a Ph.D. holder of the yesteryears. She and many of my aunts and cousins were either schoolteachers or college lecturers, and I was drawn towards teaching. I started teaching MBA students after working in the industrial sector for about three years. In those days, Ph.D. was not mandatory for college lecturers in the Indian university where I taught. Anyone with a first class MBA degree and two years of industrial experience was eligible to teach the MBA courses. I had graduated with first class, both in my Mechanical Engineering degree and in MBA degree. My application to teach in the MBA program was quickly approved, as I also had the required industrial experience and I blissfully started my academic career.

### **A Reluctant Decision**

Even when many of my colleagues registered for the part-time Ph.D. program, I never budged. My position was that the Management field was replete with pointless research and hence, it was not worthwhile to pursue doctoral research in Management. However, subconsciously, something was happening in my mind, and I started telling myself that I would need to read more and gain more