

Declaration

I hereby declare that:

1. The thesis comprises only my original work towards the Ph.D., except where indicated.
2. Due acknowledgment has been given in the text to all other materials used.
3. This work has not formed the basis for the award of any degree, diploma, association, or similar title of any university or institution.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shardav', with a large, sweeping underline that extends to the left and right, and two small dots below the signature.

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