Capital Management Strategy in Down Trending Market for Profit Maximization

Sumit Sutradhar 1

Abstract

The majority of short-term investors and long-term investors go for following the trend based on fundamental analysis more than technical analysis. In India, many retail investors lose a huge amount of money due to insufficient strategy and lack of knowledge about investments. While buying a stock, the investor has decided the final selling price and duration of investment and the investor simply trades on the daily candle or closing price of the market. This paper provided an efficient strategy for managing the adversities of the market, that is, following the downtrend though the investor is overall bullish for a stock, exiting the trade at breakeven point or when the end of downtrend is confirmed before or after the breakeven point. At this point of market reversal, which is now lower than the previous buying price, entering the market with the remaining capital after profit and loss and with same or little higher return goal, the expected returns on investments can be redeemed at a faster rate. The price at which investment goals can be achieved is given by the healing index.

Keywords: downtrend, investors, equity market, capital risk

JEL Classification Codes: G11, G12, G14, G40

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he financial market is one of the biggest sectors promising fortunes in the present cooperative world. This sector includes banking, insurance, mutual funds, commodity, debt, equity markets, etc. The capital market is a part of the financial system which majorly deals with equity, currency, futures and options, bonds and commodity markets separately. Equity is one of the instruments/components of the stock market, which provides companies nationally and internationally the opportunity to raise funds/investment from fellow investors in exchange for company ownership. There are two types of earnings from stock markets – dividend earnings (company) and secondary market earnings (speculation). Globally, the majority of investment earnings are from the secondary market because the companies use the profits for further expansion and development.

There are various strategies for stock market investing; some are which are majorly used by a large number of investors as their fundamental strategies. Value investing strategy is deriving the intrinsic value of a common stock independent of its market price. By using a company's factors such as its assets, earnings, and dividend payouts, the intrinsic value of a stock is found and compared to its market value. Based on this comparison, it is classified as overvalued or undervalued stock (Graham & Dodd, 1934). A growth investing strategy is typically to invest in a growth stock, that is, new or small companies whose earnings are expected to increase at an above-average rate compared to their industry sector or the overall market (Fisher, 1997). Momentum investing is an investment strategy aimed at purchasing securities that have been showing an upward price trend or

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¹ Student (4th year, Bachelors of Science (Honors) Agriculture), Agriculture College and Research Institute, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Lawely Road, Coimbatore - 641 003, Tamil Nadu. (Email: sumitcool1611@gmail.com); ORCIDiD: https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7111-8864

short-selling securities that have been showing a downward trend. The main idea behind momentum investing is that once a trend is well-established, it likely to continue (Jegadeesh & Titman, 1993).

This case study is important because risk management is one of the important factors for capital growth and there are various strategies by which we can reduce it like hedging, which most of the commercials do. However, for retail investors, who are in large numbers in stock markets with limited funds and knowledge and are the major reason for noise trading in the Indian equity market, they believe in stock and buy long with some investment duration; so, when a stock performs badly, they don't see an opportunity in it and hold it based on fundamental analysis till they reach their investment goal, and this creates a huge difference in their portfolio (George & Suresh, 2015). This strategy can be used when the funds of the investors are limited; so, they cannot average their trade if they go below their breakeven point. In such a scenario, the only option left is to hold long till the fundamental's valuation is reached, but this research gives a different strategy to the investors to earn from the downtrend to build their portfolio.

Review of Literature

According to a study, due to the over-performance of IPOs and risk-return analysis, the investments in IPOs are less risky than the benchmark index's performance (Jindal, 2017). However, the problem is that everyone doesn't get an IPO; so, it leaves the investors to go for secondary market investing to make a profit. Hence, investors analyze stock market performance, plan their strategy, and finally put their strategy into action (Abdulkadir & Green, 2002; Indrawati, 2002).

Once a positive sign of the value of shares appears among investors, demand for new shares spikes in stock markets, which pulls up the price of the shares. But this suitable period does not last forever and difficult times for equity values could be the next movement of the stock market (Chow et al., 2007). Sometimes, financial markets crash without a potential swing in economic fundamentals. Studies conclude that this scenario appears to be a common case of investment misbehaving or irrational investment behaviours, which is driven by emotions—greed in the bubbles and fear in the crashes (Chiang & Zheng, 2010; Climent & Meneu, 2003). In recent years, the market abnormalities have increased, which have challenged some of the standard theories. This is because the academic world is emerging and being used in the stock market (Singh & Bhowal, 2010).

So, to make fortunes, investors should use the 'buy low, sell high' or 'buy-high, sell low strategy' (Jafee, 2014), but there is always an uncertainty to get a result which may not favour, and this is called the risk of investment. There is no way to make the risk as zero, but there are many ways to minimize it. An example is diversification, and there are many methods to diversify like based on predicted growth of a company in the coming future, based on the volatility of the stock, based on the category of stock (blue-chip or pink slip), etc., and assorting the large portion capital for less volatile blue-chip stock and a small portion on the risky stock, which is also known as risk parity strategy of investment (Shah, 2018). By the above method, the individual risk of securities can be diversified away, but the contribution to the total risk caused by the covariance term cannot be diversified away (Smith, 1982).

Therefore, studies have shown that all the fundamental and technical strategies fail at some point and the prices of the stocks go below buying price, a swing type of investor doesn't care of it as the fundamentals are strong; so, the price will anyhow bounce back from the support price to its valuation price or final selling price, as analyzed by the investor, till it is too low to hit the stop loss. This situation allows for studying and making this investment strategy efficient.

Methodology

This research was conducted for eight months from September 2018 to April 2019 and the strategy used in the

paper was backtested by the paper trading method. This data for daily charts, company details, and financial statements were collected from the National Stock Exchange website and their fundamental and technical analysis was done. For this research, three stocks were selected – Bank of Baroda, BHEL, and Yes Bank due to their strong fundamental growth in a short span of time.

Downtrend Profit Maximization

This is a risk management and investing strategy like size-based strategies, momentum strategies which are mainly followed in India. Downtrend profit maximization (DTPM) is a strategy for those investors who invest based on the fundamental and technical analysis both as in a study conducted by Tripathi (2008), the majority of the Indian investors strongly believe that equity price in India did not fully depend on the fundamentals of the companies.

The DTPM strategy states that when the investor goes for swing investment on a potential stock which is promising a respectable return in the coming future and it goes below the buying price, the profits can be managed by following the downtrend to get investment and expected returns redeemed at a faster rate by setting up a new low buying price.

Assumptions

- (1) The market is fluctuating due to influencing news or decisions.
- (2) The amount of investment is fixed.
- (3) The investor has invested money in a particular company that has a promising return and strong fundamentals.
- (4) Investment is swinging type or long term, not intraday.
- (5) The psychology of the investment is risk advancer type.

Explanation of Strategy

There are two types of investments in the stock market, that is, investing in the downside market (short selling) or investing in the upside market (classical investment). This strategy combines both the types of market efficiently to get maximum returns. There is a four point of action in this strategy which is as follows and diagrammatically represented in Figure 1.

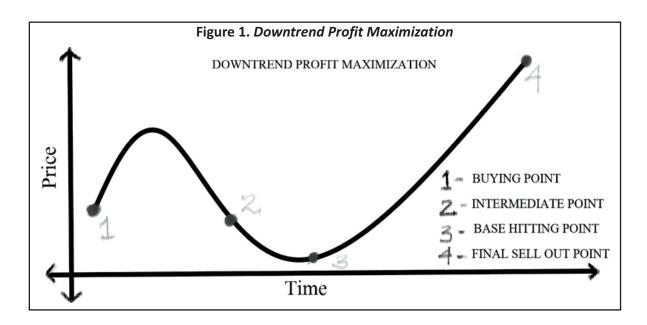
- ♦ Intermediate point
- ♦ Base hitting point/Buyback
- ♦ Final sell-out points
- (i) **Buying Point:** This is the first step of strategy in which the investor is buying a stock based on fundamental and technical analysis. According to the fundamental analysis of the investor in the company and the particular industry, it shows a respectable yield in the coming months or weeks as it is undervalued. According to the technical analysis, the graph is showing an uptrend.
- (ii) Intermediate Point/Modified Stop Loss: This is the next step to buying where the investment does not show as fast growth as expected and it turns out that the market is moving in the opposite direction and the important
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operation in a downtrend market is risk management; to do so, the conventional investor exits the trade or waits till the price becomes profitable as the fundamentals of the company are strong. The intermediate point is the point where the investor sells out at a minimum loss or no loss (breakeven/buying price) and to determine this point, the investor goes for different technical analysis tools. The next thing is shorting at price around where the investor is selling to get a surplus yield or waiting till it falls to the support price from where it bounces back.

- \$\text{Why the Intermediate Point for Selling?: This is because it's not always necessary that the market will go to a downtrend as soon as it reaches the buying point because it may sometimes go back to the previous uptrend; so, it is suggested to keep the stop loss after proper analysis. If the price doesn't go below the intermediate point, then this will be called base hitting failure. The stop-loss price will be less as compared to the classical stop loss for this investment strategy.
- (iii) Base Hitting Point: This is the price where the market becomes stable, the downtrend brakes, and the market starts reversal and moves in a positive direction and the price starts getting normal. These steps are dependent on the most basic rule of the market, that is, a stock's price always goes back to its fundamental valuation price. At this point, the investor should buy back all the stocks if shorted, and if not, then invest the amount after profit and loss.

Shorting is an option here — it's not a part of the strategy because the Indian markets don't allow shorting in delivery like some other global markets. So, throughout the research, profit earned by shorting is kept as surplus profit.

- (iv) Final Sell-Out Point: This is the point where the investor finally sells out all the holdings when the market reaches the valuation price and the investment goals are reached.
- (v) Healing of Investment: This is the key factor of this strategy, that is, when the price falls, the investor can book a greater number of stocks with the same amount of initial investment capital with or without losses at the intermediate point as the number of holdings have increased; so, with each percentage increase in the price of the stock, the amount of capital gained will be more as compared to the conversational investing strategy.



Analysis and Results

Case Study I

Figure 2 depicts the graph of Bank of Baroda, which declared its merger with two other banks and became the third largest bank of India on September 17, 2018. Bank of Baroda (BOB) is an Indian multinational, public sector banking and financial services company. It is owned by the Government of India.

Buying Point

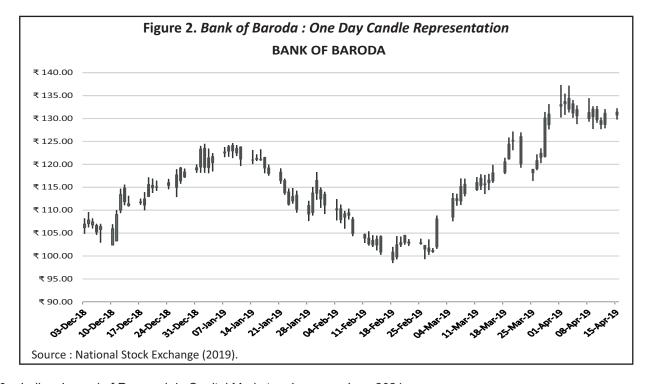
On December 11, 2018, an investor had bought 100 stocks of Bank of Baroda @ ₹109/share.

Initial investment capital = $₹109 \times 100 = ₹10,900$

As the company was going to become the third largest bank in the country, the expected price of the stock was around $\leq 130 - \leq 140$ /share in accordance to the fundamental valuation analysis. So, buying the stock at ≤ 109 /share was not a bad deal for the short-term investment which ensured about 18 - 28% profit in 3 - 5 months as shown in Figure 2.

Intermediate Point

On January 3, 2019, the swap ratio for these three banks was fixed. On January 14, 2019, the stock price was ₹120.95/share after which the market suddenly started to go in a downtrend and till the end of the month, the price fell to around ₹112/share; so, as an investor, there are two options – either wait till the market got to the expected value or exit the trade with a profit of ₹2/share. But getting ₹2/share will be called a bad investment for swing type of investment on principle amount because the profit is around 1.8% as shown in Figure 2.



Major short-and long-term investors will go for the first option because the fundamentals of the company are strong, but in DTPM (downtrend profit maximization) risk management and profit maximization strategy, the investor will sell the stock at ₹112/share and short 100 shares @ of ₹109/share after confirming by next day candle (risk advancer) and technical analysis.

```
Gross profit = ₹112 × 100 = ₹11,200
Net surplus profit = ₹11,200 – ₹10,900 = ₹300
```

Base Hitting Point

The date for the merger of all the three banks was fixed as April 1, 2019 and on February 20, 2019, the market became bullish. On March 1, 2019, the market again started to go in an uptrend at ₹101/share. As the investor had shorted 100 shares; so, it's time to buy back the stocks @₹105/share as shown in Figure 2. Therefore,

```
Net surplus profit = (shorting price - buying back price) \times number of shares
=(₹109-₹105) \times 100
= ₹4/share × 100 = ₹400
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At this point, the investor again buys at ₹105/share around 104 shares.

Investment capital = $104 \times ₹105/share = ₹10,920$

Final Sell-Out Points

The final merging of the banks was fixed as April 1, 2019. On April 6, 2019, the market price of the stock was ₹132/share and the market was again suppressed by a bearish trend; so, the market started to fall again. This is the point when the investor sells out all his/her stocks at the fundament valuation market price, which is around ₹130 – ₹140/share as shown in Figure 2.

```
Gross profit = 104 \times ₹132/share = ₹13,728
Net profit = ₹13,728 – ₹10,920 = ₹2,808
Total profit \% (without surplus) = 25.71%
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It's directly 25.71% profit over the initial investment in 4.5 months, that is, around 5% profit/month.

```
Total profit of whole investment = ₹2,808 + ₹400 + ₹300 = ₹3,508
Surplus profit = ₹400 + ₹300 = ₹700
Net total profit \% (with surplus) = 32.12%
```

Investing by the Conventional Method

In this, the investor follows the first option, that is, waits till the investment goal is reached according to the fundamental valuation method as he/she is a conventional swing type investor. So, according to this situation, the investor buys 100 stocks @₹109/stock and sells at ₹132/share as shown in Figure 2.

```
Gross profit = 100 \times ₹132/share = ₹13,200
```

Therefore,

Net profit = Gross profit – investment amount = ₹13,200 - ₹10,900 = ₹2,300Net profit % = 21.10%

Downtrend Profit Maximization Percentage (DTPM%)

The difference between the total profit percentage leaving the surplus gain by shorting or /and selling with very minimum profit at the intermediate point, minus the profit percentage which is gained by the conventional method is called as downtrend profit maximization percentage. Therefore, profit due to this downtrend profit maximization leaves the surplus as follows:

DTPM% = Total profit % (without surplus) – Conventional profit %

Therefore, for this case study, DTPM% is:

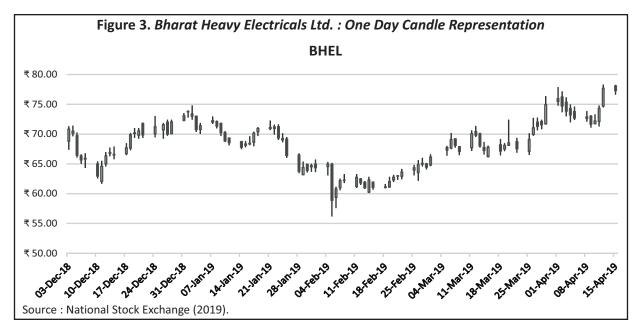
$$DTPM\% = 25.71\% - 21.10\%$$

= 4.61%

Therefore, by using the strategy, there is an extra profit of 4.61%, which is called downtrend profit maximization percent, which occurred due to setting a new low to the investment and healing property.

Case Study II

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, owned and founded by the Government of India, is an engineering and



manufacturing company based in New Delhi, India. Established in 1964, BHEL is India's largest power generation equipment manufacturer.

Buying Point

Till the end of December 19, the Q3 results of BHEL were expected and the investors were very positive as the company was showing better business than last year. On December 16, 2019, an investor bought 100 stocks @ <65/share as the expected price according to fundamental valuation was around <75-77/share; so, it was not a bad investment as the stock was undervalued as shown in Figure 3.

Initial investment = $100 \times \$65/share = \$6,500$

Intermediate Point

At the end of December 2019, the company published its third-quarter results, and the profits jumped 25%, but the stock price started to fall 2 to 3 days after the third-quarter results, which was something unexpected, and this was because the operating margin of the company was 1% less compared to last year. As moving on the market showed quiet uptrend till the mid of January, but till the end of January, it made two lower highs and lower lows confirming the downtrend market and the whole market started to fall till January 31, 2019, and the share price was ₹65/share, which is the buying price for the stock. So, the investor got two options − either sell out with no loss or hold the stocks until the market gets profitable (as shown in Figure 3). So, option B seems to be a good option for a conventional investor.

But at this point, the investor applies DTPM risk management strategy and sells out all his/her stocks with no loss and shorts it at the same price, that is, ₹66/share.

```
Gross profit = 100 \times ₹66/share = ₹6,600
Net surplus profit = 100
```

Base Hitting Point

On February 4, 2019, the company announced a dividend of 40% on the face value, that is, 10. The share price was 80/share dated February 21, 2019. So, the market became bullish as the buying pressure was increasing. On February 20, the market starts a run for uptrend and the investor buys back all the stocks @ 862/share with a profit of 4/share as shown in Figure 3.

```
Net surplus profit = (shorting price – buying back price) × number of shares = (₹66 - ₹62) \times 100
Net surplus profit = ₹4/share \times 100 = ₹400
```

At that same point, the investor bought 104 shares @ ₹62/share with the same amount of initial investment.

```
Investing capital = 104 \times \$62/share = \$6,500
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Final Sell-Out Points

On the 27th of March, the fourth quarter or the financial year report was out and the company had jumped to 49% Indian Journal of Research in Capital Markets • January - June 2021 53 profit. Three days after this, the company had signed up for a deal with GAIL (Gail Limited is the largest state-owned natural gas processing and distribution company in India) for the development of solar power. This was a long-term future investment for the company. These two events gave a large hike to the company's stock price and the price reached ₹72/share on the April 3, 2019 as calculated by fundamental valuation and technical analysis. So, the investor sells all the stocks at ₹72/share as shown in Figure 3.

```
Gross \ profit = 104 * ₹72/share
= ₹7,488
Net \ profit = Gross \ profit - invested \ money
= ₹7,488 - ₹6,500
= ₹988
Net \ surplus \ profit = Shorted \ profit + intermediate \ selling \ profit
= ₹400 + ₹100 = ₹500
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Therefore,

```
Net total profit = ₹988 + ₹500 = ₹1,488
Total profit % (with surplus) = 22.8\%
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It's directly 22.8% profit on initial investment over 3.5 months, that is, about 6.5%/month.

Total profit % (*without surplus*) = 15.2%

Investing by the Conventional Method

In this method, the investor goes for the first option, that is, waits till the investment becomes profitable. So, the investor buys 100 stocks @ \$65/stock and sells @ \$72/share as shown in Figure 3. Therefore,

```
Investment Money = 100 \times \$65/share = \$6,500

Gross profit % = 100 \times \$72/share = \$7,200

Net profit % = \$7200 - \$6500/share = \$700

Net profit % = 10.76\%
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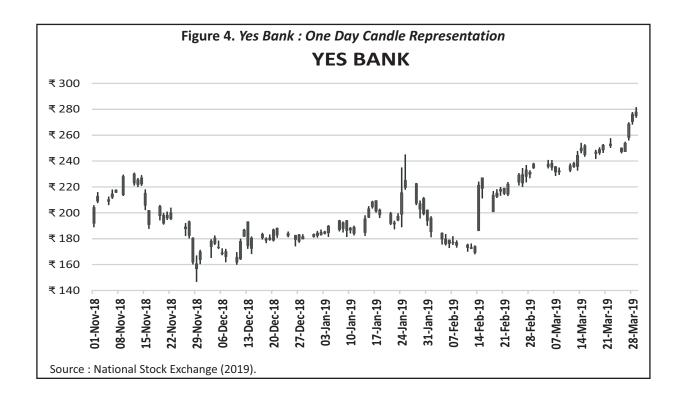
Therefore, profit by following downtrend profit maximization is as follows:

```
DTPM% = Total Profit (Without Surplus)% - Conventional Profit % = 15.2% - 10.76% = 4.44%
```

Therefore, by using the strategy, there is an extra profit of 4.44%.

Case Study III (Loss Bearing Intermediate Point)

In case studies I and II, the investor has not gone in a negative side, that is, is in a no loss situation, but in 54 Indian Journal of Research in Capital Markets • January - June 2021



some cases, it may happen that the investor confirmed that the market is in a downtrend once the price falls below the buying price as in case of Yes Bank given below. This is the case when the DTPM strategy is used for risk management.

In this situation, the investor had a loss of around ₹12/share till the investor confirmed that the market is in a downtrend, but by following downtrend profit maximization strategy, the loss can be covered at a faster rate as the number of shares increase at the same amount of initial investment after subtracting the losses concurred at the intermediate point, that is, called as healing of investment. The expected price of the share in the coming 3-4months is about ₹270 – 280/share by fundamental valuation analysis as shown in Figure 4.

Buying Point

Buying price = ₹212/share on November 5, 2018

Initial investment = $100 \times ₹212/share = ₹21,200$

Intermediate Point

Selling Price = ₹ 200/share on November 19, 2018 which gave loss around ₹12/share as shown in Figure 4.

Gross profit = Initial investment – intermediate selling price

$$= 21,200 - \left(100 \times \frac{200}{share}\right) = -21,200$$

Shorting at ₹ 200/share with left amount of investment after losses, that is, ₹ 20, 000, which books around 100 shares.

Base Hitting Price

On November 29, 2018, the graphs and technical analysis confirmed that the market is moving in an upward direction and the support is hit; so, it was time the market bounces back. So, the investor sells all the shorted stocks and buys new stocks at ₹167/share as shown in Figure 4.

Shorting profit (surplus) =
$$₹200/share × 100$$
) - ($₹167/share × 100$) = $₹3,300$
Investment capital (after loss) = $₹21,200 - ₹1200 = ₹20,000$
Number of stocks = $\frac{Investment\ capital\ (after\ loss)}{Base\ hitting\ price}$
= $\frac{₹20,000}{₹167}$ = 119 shares

Around January 28 – 29, 2019 the market again started to take a downtrend. It fell around ₹169/share but it didn't cross the low, which is presently registered by the investment capital, that is, ₹167/share; so, the downtrend profit maximization strategy can't be applied.

Healing Price

It is now important to assess at what price the initial investment amount will be gained back by the investor which is a no-profit, no-loss price and this price is termed as healing price.

Healing Index

Healing index is a scale that gives the investor idea of how much the price should increase from the base hitting point so that the losses incurred during the intermediate point of investment get back. Healing index is always the price difference between the base hitting point and expected price (Final sell out price – base hitting price).

$$Healing\ Index = \frac{Loss\ of\ Investment}{Number\ of\ Shares\ at\ Base\ Hitting\ Point}$$

Therefore, for this situation, healing price and index are as follows:

Healing index =
$$\frac{₹1,200}{119}$$
 = 10.08
Healing price = $\frac{21,200}{119}$ = ₹178.15 or ₹167 + 10.08 = ₹177.8

Therefore, the investment will cover all its losses at ₹178/share and the expected price is around ₹270 – 280/share.

Final Sell Out Points

On March 27, 2019 the stock reaches it desired goal price. This investment took around 5 months to reach it final sell out point.

```
Final selling price = ₹270/share
Gross profit = ₹270/share \times 114 shares = ₹30,780
Total profit (without surplus) = 30.780 - 21.200 = 9.580
Net profit (with surplus by shorting) = ₹3,300 + ₹9,580 = ₹12,880
Total profit \% (DTPM) = 45.19\%
Total profit (Conventional) = 100 \times ₹270/shares + 100 \times ₹212/shares = ₹5,800
Total profit % (Conventional) = 27.36%
DTPM% = Total Profit (Without Surplus) % - Conventional Profit %
=45.19\% - 27.36\%
=17.83\%
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Therefore, by following the downtrend profit maximization strategy, 17.83% more profit than the conventional method of investment can be earned.

Conclusion

In this paper, the strategy of DTPM (downtrend profit maximization) is for increasing profit margin or profitably by managing the losses. The study about the Indian market and its investing behaviour depicts that majority of the investments are swinging type and don't use the little downfall which occurs due to various reasons during their investment period as an opportunity because the fundamentals of the companies are strong; so, profit is assured. So, in such a case, this strategy gives its use and application to the wider prospectus. Every investor in the market may know how to earn in a bearish market, that is, by shorting, but if the investment decision is already made by analyzing the company, this strategy is perfect. This increases the market efficiency of an investment and ensures higher promising results with very minimal risk. The following are the advantages of downtrend profit maximization strategy:

- 4 Healing price is always less than expected price if the DTPM strategy is applied after proper analysis and the supernormal profit is sure over conventional investing strategy.
- \$\text{The investor goals are reached early as compared to the conventional investment strategy. For example, if an investor's goal is to get 25% out of an investment, he/she gets it early and at a low price as compared to the target price of the investment.
- Profit % increases by following the downtrend market.
- The investor sets a new low with no or little losses.

There is surplus yield if the stock is available for shorting or the investors sell before reaching buying point price if the downtrend is confirmed.

Research Implications

This research can be used for algorithm trading as it provides important buy and sells signals. By using the healing index and amount of market retracing ability, one can minimize losses. This strategy can be used by those investors who don't involve in markets and believe in value investing. Hedge funds and fund managers can use this strategy to earn extra profits from the market when the market situations are adverse.

Limitations of the Study and Scope for Further Research

The following are the limitations of downtrend profit maximization strategy:

- (1) If the investor's technical or fundamental analysis goes wrong, then there may be a risk to the investment amount and goals.
- (2) It can't be applied to all kind of market situations; it should be applied after proper fundamental and technical analysis both.
- (3) If the investment had already taken a lot of losses and reached the base hitting point, then this downtrend profit maximization strategy can't be applied as the healing index will be near to the expected target price and would not earn some supernormal profits; so, the conventional strategy of investment must be followed as it will earn near same profits.
- (4) The taxation incurred in this method is more as compared to the conventional strategy because the number of transactions are increased

Author's Contribution

Sumit Sutradhar is the sole author of this case study conducted on capital management strategy in down-trending market for profit maximization.

Conflict of Interest

The author certifies that he has no affiliations with or involvement in any organization or entity with any financial interest, or non-financial interest in the subject matter, or materials discussed in this manuscript.

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About the Author

Sumit Sutradhar is presently pursuing 4th-year B.Sc. (Hons.) agriculture degree from Tamil Nadu Agriculture University, Coimbatore. He has 4 years of research experience in the Indian stock market and crypto-currencies.