Acknowledgement

First and foremost, with great gratitude, I would pay a gesture of respect to my revered guide Dr Madhu Sharan, Associate Professor and Head of Department, Department of Clothing and Textiles, Faculty of Family and Community Sciences, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda. I am wholeheartedly thankful for her valuable guidance and persistent supervision, during this work. It was only her perennial source of knowledge and wide research experience that helped me to gradually explore my topic.

Of particular note, with due respect I deeply express my sense of indebtedness towards the members of the Royal family of Kachchh – H.H.Maharao Shri Pragmulji III and HH Maharani Shri Pritidevi Saheba, Maharaj Kumar Shri Dilipsinhji, Maharaj Kumari Shri Brijrajkumari Saheba, Maharaj Kumar Shri Hanvantsinhji, Maharaj Kumar Shri Raghurajsinhji, Late Maharaj Kumar Shri Ghanshyamsinhji, HH Durgakumari Karansinh Zala, Maharaj Kumar Shri Mayurdhwajsinhji, Maharaj Kumari Shri Aartidevi and Shri Krutarthsinhji whose support was always there with me, in all means. I specially thank Maharaj Kumari Shri Brijrajkumari Saheba who helped me at every small juncture of my doctoral journey.

On the fine details, many thanks to Rudrani Rajput for her immense support in organising all the appointments and meetings with the members of the royal family. I am also grateful to Judy Frater madam, founder of Somaiya Kala Vidya for authentic data collection and guidance, Shri Praful Shah and Smt. Shilpa Shah- Tapi Collection, Garden Silk Mills, Surat for sharing their curated private collection of Royal costumes of Kachchh for the study. Shri Umesh Jadia ,Satish Sadasivan and Shri R.R.Morabia - Ex-curators, Kachchh museum, Shri N.K.Jadeja- Managing Trustee, Aina Mahal Trust., Shri Y.G.Dave- Curator, Kachchh Museum., Shri Dalpat Danidharia- Kachchh Archive Center, Shri S.M.Vaishnav- Curator, Aina Mahal., Shri Pramod Jethi- Excurator, Aina Mahal., Shri Joshi sir- Curator, Pragmahal, Shri A.A.Wazir, Textile conservist and Shri Patel- curator, Baroda Museum for all their support.

I cannot forget to thank Shri Ranjitsinh Jadeja- renowned photographer associated with royal family and Hina Pomal for extending her photography skills. Many thanks to my

friend Kuldip Gadhvi who was just a call away every time whenever I was stuck in the journey.

A note of thanks goes to all the respondents, artisans, traders and craftsmen for their keen interest in assisting me with their oral narratives and sharing their experiences with the royal family which helped me a lot for to understand the minute details of the study.

Renowned for his tailoring skills, I personally thank Mr. Virendra Vegad who beautifully developed various patterns which had a vital role in my work. On similar grounds, I would also not forget the contribution from Mr. Kasam Jumma Sanghar whose embroidery work aided me to revive the traditional embroidery of Royalty.

I owe particular thanks to illustrators Aquib Shaikh and Khodu Dabhi for extending their help for the digital illustrations as well as an animator Dhiraj Moolya for the documentary. Also, my sincere gratitude to Madhuri Solegaonkar, Ketki Deolalikar, Hardik Pancholi and Yuti D for providing needed guidance for the graphic design and Aritra Sarkar for his generous and quick help for improvement of thesis.

Special thanks to administrative authorities, faculties, my colleagues and friends at National Institute of Design (NID, Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar campus), Unitedworld Institute of Design (UID, Karnavati University, Ahmedabad) & The Maharaja Sayajirao University who supported me in many ways, for the accomplishment of this work.

From the bottom of my heart, I express my deep obeisance towards my family-Mumma, Papa, Ben, Jiju, Abhu and little Manthan who stood by my side at every stage, especially my father Mr. Bhogilal Kalaiya – who ever accompanied me as a friend, may it be for various royal meets or distant conferences. I blissfully dedicate each and every bit of success to him.

My sincere gratitude to my husband Dr. Harshal Deota for his immense understanding, support and encouragement without which it was impossible to complete this journey.

Along with this, I shall also not forget to acknowledge the support from Aazoba, Aaji, Aai, Baba and Vrunda for their blessings and encouragement.

Lastly, I bow down at the feet of Lord Shiva and Lord Ganesha who made me capable of managing every small thing, for the successful completion of my doctoral journey.

Ms. Vibha B Kalaiya