

Acknowledgments

One sure thing I have learned over years is that completing a doctoral degree is largely an individual achievement resulting from support of many people. My deepest gratitude to Prof. Shagufa Kapadia, my mentor. I truly cherished her investment not only in research but in my overall professional learning and personal growth. She showed a balance in providing with appropriate guidance and freedom to navigate my way. I consider myself truly fortunate to work under her guidance. I am indebted to her for believing in me while I was not sure of myself. My sincere gratitude to her for introducing me to the cross-cultural project and providing opportunities to present this research at National and International forums.

I express my heartfelt gratitude to Prof. Wolfgang Friedlmeier, my mentor. I am thankful for his keen investment and guidance on every single phase of this research. I deeply appreciate his promptness, availability and support throughout the research. His patience to guide me even on some obvious questions, elaborated explanations to each question is truly admirable. I am grateful to Prof. Wolfgang for the opportunities to present this research at International platforms and contribution in collaborative publication. I am also grateful to cross-cultural study team members, particularly, Prof. Lisa Hickman for her insightful comments and suggestions on coding and analysis of the interview. I also extend my heartfelt gratitude to Victoria Sanders for her availability, patience and great support for training of codes and preparing SPSS files to ease the analysis.

My sincere grateful to all the mothers, children and their family members who participated in the study and extended their hospitality during home visits. Their willingness and enthusiasm to share their thoughts, feelings and experiences made this research a possibility.

I convey my sincere thanks to Human Development Assessment Centre (HDAC, UGC-CAS II) team, Prof. Shagufa Kapadia, Dr. Divya Sharma, Priya Mistry and Sonal Shah Maheshwary for permitting me to use HDAC centre for conducting lab observation and for their timely help and guidance to participant mothers. I am grateful to Prof. Shagufa Kapadia for her immense support for allowing me to use HDAC centre even on Sundays and holidays.

I have been fortunate to have excellent support of friends. Special thanks to Prachi Shrivastva for her selfless support during lab observations and facilitating my visits to many schools in Baroda. She has been very instrumental throughout the process of data collection. My sincere gratitude to Apurva Kumar Pandya for his immense support and motivation through ups and downs of this study. I am grateful to Asmita Naik, for her presence and timely support. Much thanks to Chandrakant Golani, for lending me his DSLR without any hesitation for smooth shooting of mother-child dyads. I am thankful to Darshini Shah for her help in navigating schools in town and holding workshops on parenting. I am grateful to Gurjot Tung for her immense support in identifying and contacting participant mothers for the research. Thanks to Prachi Shrivastva and Kanika Mondal for providing me homes and warm hospitality in Baroda during the course of this study.

Though, not directly related to this research, I am greatly thankful to Dr. Deepali Sharma who provided me with former experience of research and scientific writing and has been a constant source of inspiration.

No words can adequately express my deepest gratitude to my parents; Prem Kathuria, *papa*, for always been supportive of all my decisions. He taught me innumerable and valuable lessons of life which I shall cherish forever. I am thankful to Neelam Kathuria, *mummy*, for been supportive of my decision despite her anxieties about my time investment in PhD and delay in marriage. She always put her children above anything in life. Sincere thanks to Ayush for his help in organizing data sheets and being instrumental in rushing for my stuffs whenever required. Juhi, for always been a support and motivation to do well in all the possible ways.

My eternal gratitude to Dr. Daisaku Ikeda and my Soka Gakkai family (Late) Purnima *aunty*, Vrinda, Ankit, Manisha, Divya, DivyeJyoti and Puja for their support and prayers to navigate this journey with ease.