## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Firstly, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my guide **Prof. (Dr.) Sunita Nambiyar** for the continuous support of my Ph.D. study and related research, for her motivation, patience, and wonderful knowledge. Her guidance helped me all the time for research and writing of this thesis. I could not have imagined having a better advisor, expert and mentor for my Ph.D. study.

My sincere thanks goes to **Professor Dr. M.N. Parmar**, Dean of Faculty of Social Work & **Prof. Jagdish Solanki**, Head of the Department, The Maharaja Sayajirao University, Vadodara who provided me an opportunity to enter as a Ph.D. Scholar and who gave access to the library and other research facilities. Without his precious support it would not be possible to conduct this research.

I would also like to thank **Prof. Chhaya Patel, Prof. Bhavna Mehta, and Prof. Ankur Saxena** for their insightful comments and encouragement, but also for the hard question which help me for widen my research from various perspectives.

I would like to express my gratitude to Smt. Jyotsnaben. Patel, Hon. Secretary of RKSM for her moral support and who facilitated me for the completion of my thesis, and Prof. S.R. Agrawal sir, Dr. Ninad Jhala (I/c Principal of AISW) Dr. Bigi Thomas (Asst. Professor of Department of Social Work, V.V. Nagar) for their continuous guidance and motivation.

I am very much grateful to **Dr. Arpita Christian**, **Dr. Jayalaxmi Mohanty** (M.S. University) **Ms. Sneha Chandrapal** (AISW), **Ms. Manisha Parmar** (AISW), **Mr. Unmesh Patel** (AISW), **Ms. Nipa Sheth** (AISW), **Ms. Shital Somaiya** and all other teaching and non-teaching staff of AISW for their continuous support.

I am grateful to **Mr. Som Shukla** (Ex. DPO of Anand District) **Ms. Darshna Padhkar** (DPO of Anand District), **DDO** of Anand District, **Talati and Sarpanch** of sample villages.

My deepest gratitude goes to my statistician **Mr. Rajendra Parmar** and **Mr. Kiran Rajput** (Department of Psychology, Vadodara) for their valuable guidance. I am grateful to **Madhukarbhai** (Faculty of Social Work. MSU), **Mayurbhai** (MSU) and **Milindbhai** (MSU) and all other teaching and non-teaching staff of Faculty of Social, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara.

A special thanks to **my family and God**. Words cannot express how grateful I am to my mother-in law **Jayaben**, father-in-law **Manibhai**, my mother **Chandrikaben**, father **Jashubhai**, and my grandmother **Kamlaben** for all of the sacrifices that they have made on my behalf. I would also like to thank all of my friends who supported me in writing, helped me to strive towards my goal. At the end I would like express appreciation to my beloved husband **Yogesh** who spent sleepless nights with and was always my support in the moments when there was no one to answer my queries. I acknowledge the role of my children **Manthan** and **Vrushti**. I feel blessed to have them in my life.

## JYOTI KA. PATEL