Acknowledgement

I express my deep sense of gratitude to my guide Prof. Prerana Mohite, Department of Human Development and Family Studies, for providing her invaluable guidance and encouragement throughout the study. She gave me new insights which crystallized my ideas and tightened the loose strings of my thoughts. I am grateful to her, for giving me my own independence and space to work. This work could not have reached to its present form without her active support.

I would like to thank Department Faculty, the Staff Members and the Research Committee (in the project) for their support and inputs provided at different point in time.

I would like to thank Anganwadi Workers, Supervisor, Members of Village Education Committee, Child development Project officer and Parents for being supportive throughout the study.

I like to thank my family members especially my mother-in-law, father-in-law and brother in-law, for shouldering the responsibility of caring my little daughters in my absence, without their support it would have been difficult to complete this work.

I would like to thank my parents for being there whenever I needed them. A very special thank to my mother for giving her moral support throughout the study.

I express my deepest gratitude and adoration to my husband Vikas, for his inspiration, ever willing help and moral support throughout the study. He always stood by my side whenever I needed him and encouraged me to focus on my aim. It wouldn't have been possible to complete this study without his support.

Last but not the least Chahat and Muskan, my little angels deserve special affectionate thanks for their sacrifice and for silently bearing my absence.

Mukta Vasal