## **Acknowledgements**

First and foremost, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my guide Professor K. Muralidharan, the Head, Department of Statistics, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, for his insight, guidance, constant encouragement in every manner possible. During my tenure as a doctoral student, I have learned so much from him that words would not be sufficient to express.

I am so indebted to my family, and my parents for their constant support and encouragement throughout my research. Last, but not least, I am deeply grateful to my husband Manish and my son Kritgya, without whose understanding, love and patience, I would not have been able to accomplish my research.

I'll never be able to forget the support and cooperation I received from the Principal of my college, Dr. Basudeb Bakshi. At the same time, I am also very grateful for the assistance and valuable advice I received from all my colleagues at Natubhai V. Patel College of Pure and Applied Sciences, V. V. Nagar, my friends and people who have directly or indirectly helped me in accomplishment of my research.

Date: Arti Khabia