ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

'To be conscious of gratitude is to acknowledge a gift.'

My life has been blessed with such divine gift of friends, family, and elders who have made my past sensible, my present peaceful, and encouraged me to create a vision for tomorrow. I owe my sincerest gratitude to all of them. Some were in the foreground while many others were in the background, some more visible while many others were invisible, some very vocal while many others kept a quiet demeanor. I see my Almighty in all these souls and offer my heartfelt gratitude to all.

It would be unjust not to name a few while having jointly thanked all - I express my deep sense of gratitude to my researcher supervisor and guide Prof. R C Patel for his constant support, valuable suggestions, thoughtful advice, warmth, friendly approach, and above all his patience in tolerating my idiosyncrasies while keeping me encouraged to complete this piece of research. I think I should also thank Prof. Patel in the capacity of the Head, Department of Education (CASE) and the Dean of the Faculty of Education and Psychology for providing all administrative assistance and smoothening struggles, if any, during the entire period of research.

I thank all the administrative staff – Divyaben, Ranabhai, Vandanaben, and Anilbhai at the Department of Education, Faculty of Education and Psychology, and Mayurbhai, University Head Office for providing me with all kinds of administrative support.

I place the support of all my respondents and participating schools and their staff on record, who willingly provided all the required data for the research.

I also acknowledge Prof. S. C. Panigrahi and Prof. Ashutosh Biswal for their valuable suggestions and encouragement during the study.

My sincere thanks to Dr. Jatin Patel and Dr. Jyotsna Amin for providing me

with research assistance in defining, refining, and proofreading my research report.

My sincerest gratitude to all my friends who have been my backbone and always stood beside me in every thick and thin of my life. I thank Dr. Jignesh Patel, Dr. Kashyapi Awasthi, Dr. Tulna Awasthi, and Ms. Avani Bhat. I also thank my Guru brothers and Sisters; Dr. Deepika Rajawat, Dr. Nila Dongare, Ms. Rinky Tiwari, Ms. Shefali Dhimaar, Chandrang, Naveen, Siddhi Amin, Shipra, and Mr. Ashok Nakum, for their valuable suggestions, co-operation, motivation, and help.

I wish to extend my thanks to Principal Mr. B. P. Gadhvi DIET Bharuch, and my colleagues Dr. M. R. Mavani, Dr. J. H. Modi, and Mr. J. C. Vansadiya for their motivation and support during the study.

My special thanks to my wife, Sucheta Baladaniya, and my niece Dhara for pushing me towards completing this significant achievement in my professional career, and my parents, and my family for their constant encouragement, support, and blessings in all my life pursuits.

17th June 2022

Vashram M. Baladaniya

Vadodara

Researcher