

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my sincere deep sense of gratitude and respect to my research guide Dr. M. Sreedevi Xavier, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, Faculty of Arts of The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara. She has always stood for me throughout my work encouraging, supporting, helping, suggesting and most importantly, inspiring me to produce a real means of excellence and quality work. I am fortunate that Almighty gave me this opportunity to work under such a genuine and eminent mentor. Under her immense knowledge, guidance and generosity, I have learned a lot and carried out my work passionately with her noble vision and thoughts.

I would also like to acknowledge Prof. P. S. Choondawat, Head, Department of Sociology, The M. S. University of Baroda for his support. I am truly thankful to all my teachers of the Department of Sociology.

I am highly grateful to all selected Corporations and their management for giving me approval to include their Corporations as a part of my research sample.

I owe a great deal of appreciation to all the respondents from HR, CSR, and other Cross Functional Divisions of the Companies. Despite of their busy schedule and work, they extended warm and positive response and shared information in a good corporative manner which was of a great help in data collection.

I express my deepest gratitude to all the beneficiaries of selected companies from the surrounding villages. It might have been difficult being an outsider to communicate with the village people but they showed tremendous cooperation during my interactions. The way they shared information helped me to get knowledge from the grassroots level which I required the most.

My sincere gratitude is extended to the NGOs and other institutes, especially The Akshaya Patra Foundation, Vadodara and their team for giving me an opportunity to

see the production unit and their excellent work process for Mid-Day Meal program for school children.

I am also thankful to Mr. Ashwini Kumar, Commissioner, Vadodara Municipal Corporation; members of village Panchayats; and other officials for rendering their kind gesture and consideration in providing information.

I would convey my heartiest thanks to all my friends, colleagues and acquaintances Dr. Poonam Gandhi, Mr. DebRanjan Hota, Ms. Minni Harikumar, Ms. Tara Pillai, Ms. Surekha Mehra, Ms. Priyanka Chopra, Ms. Megha Agarwal, Ms. Purvika Dave, Ms. Eesha Thaker, and Ms. Suruchika Chawla, for their encouragement, support and help in a generous manner.

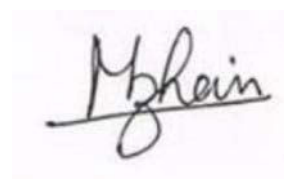
I would sincerely extend my thanks to Bimal Bhatt, CA; Mr. Milind K. Gupte, AGM-NABARD Bank; Mr. Ganga Sharma, Country Head-CSR & Sustainability, TUV Rheinland; and Mr. Sailesh Trivedi, Head, CSR, GSFC for their expertise suggestions and valuable guidelines in helping me to get contacts with other HR/CSR professionals.

I convey my heartfelt thanks to my university, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda for offering me an ideal platform and giving me exposure with various environments and providing me scholarship to carry out my research work smoothly and successfully.

I would like to thank The M. S. University administrative staff and the library staff for their help in offering me the resources and assistance for the program. I would convey my thanks to Mr. Nilesh Dave, supporting staff of the Department of Sociology, The M. S. University of Baroda.

I extend special thanks to my best friend Trinayan Jyoti Saikia for his infinite support, constant motivation, and encouragement throughout my research. I am also thankful to Jitendra Nath Saikia, Ranjita Saikia and Mohan Jyoti Saikia for their love and support.

Finally, I am immensely and whole heartedly grateful to my father Jatin Ch. Borgohain and mother Binu Borgohain for their love, understanding, encouragement and support in all my pursuits throughout my research. I owe my every achievement to both of them. I also wish to thank to my sister Swapnalee Boruah, brother Bidyut Borgohain, brother in- law Kamakhya Boruah and other family members for their generous support. The blessings of elders, grandparents and the Almighty are being always supportive to carry my work in a consistent way.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mghain', is centered on a light pink rectangular background.

Ms. Minasree Borgohain