ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It would not have been possible to write this doctoral thesis without the help and support of the kind people around me. I would like to acknowledge my sincere and profound thanks to a few special people for their constant support and encouragement which made possible the successful completion of my research work.

I express my sincere thanks and gratitude to Dr. Sirimavo Nair, Associate Professor, Department of Foods and Nutrition for her constant guidance and support in every step of my research. She had been a source of inspiration and had enlightened me with tremendous knowledge in my course of research work.

I also express my heartfelt thanks to Prof. Pallavi Mehta, Former Head and Prof. Uma Iyer, Head of the department for providing me the platform to carry out this research activity. I am extremely thankful to University Grants Commission for support particularly in the award of a Doctoral research scholarship that provided the necessary financial support for this research. The library facilities and computer facilities of the University have been indispensable.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Prof. M.G. Karmarkar, President and Dr. C.S. Pandav, secretary, ICCIDD for providing me institutional support to skill and carry out the techniques which are a part of my research activity. My heartiest thanks to Dr. GNV Brahmap “F” Scientist, NIN, who has always been kind to answer my research queries at any point of time. I am highly obliged to Dr. MGR Rajan and Mrs. Chandrakala Gholve at BARC for their valuable institutional support in performing the RIA estimations. I personally express my sincere thanks to Mr. Ashok Parekh, Mr. Navin Pinara and Mr. Omprakash for their support in procuring and ensuring quality double fortified salt.

My thankfulness is extended to Micronutrient Initiatives (Gujarat and India office) for collaborative field and technical initiatives towards upgrading salt iodization. I thank UNICEF, Gujarat for funding my review workshops towards advocacy measures for salt producers.

I thank my peer colleagues under my guide, Juhi Agarwal, Mital Joshi and my Ph.D. colleagues have contributed immensely to my personal and academic time at department. The group has been a source of friendships, joy as well as good advice and collaboration.

My parents and husband Srinivas have always been with me and I am obliged for their personal support and great patience at all times. They were always there cheering me up and stood by me through the good times and bad. I acknowledge my In-laws, grandparents and siblings who have given me their unequivocal support throughout, as always, for which my mere expression of thanks likewise does not suffice.

Above all I thank the Almighty for his graceful blessings which made this research possible.

Kejal Joshi