ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The submission of this Ph.D. thesis gives me immense pleasure, satisfaction and unique sense of accomplishment despite many difficulties and troubles that came in its way. Of course it is a fact that such endeavour is never possible without the help of many persons in one way or the other. Naturally I cannot miss this opportunity to convey my sincere thanks and heart-felt gratitude to all those who helped me to make this task possible in its present fruitful form.

Though I desire to mention the names of all those who helped me in this arduous work but due to the paucity and constraint of space the same is rendered difficult but this does not in any way go unacknowledged by me. I equally convey my thankfulness and gratitude to all of them for their valuable assistance rendered to me sparing their most valuable time and helping me in this strenuous exercise.

The first and foremost among the persons whom I convey my humble gratitude is Dr.M.H. Makwana, Head, Department of Sociology and Chair, Dr.B.R. Ambedkar of Gujarat University who was most kind enough to me to be my Supervisor for this research study. Dr. Makwana’s availability, systematic guidance, whole-hearted cooperation and support with an ever smiling face inspired and enabled me in carrying out and completing this research. His erudition and rich experience shaped the course of the research and sharpened its outcome.

I convey my sincere thankfulness and gratitude to all my respondents who are from various fields and who are mainly from Ahmedabad City and Ahmedabad Rural district who are classified by me as “Urban” and
“Rural” in this research. They extended whole-hearted support and cooperation to me in my research sparing their most valuable time and furnishing complete details including their personal details in the questionnaire which contained very large number of questions without being irritated by the same.

I would also like to thank my well-wishers Shri Sandip Singh, Shri D. H. Goswami, Shri K.D. Pandya, Shri N.L. Vyas, Shri G.H. Gohil, Shri Bhursinh, Shri Kirit Karolia, Dr. J.K. Parmar, Shri J.D. Soni and Shri Sulax Shah who provided very valuable assistance to me in contacting respondents and Shri J.R. Hedamba who provided statistical information about crimes against SCs/STs in Gujarat and in India, Shri Vishwanathan Warrier, Miss. Brijal Shah and Shri Bharat Desai who provided me Computer related assistance at very odd hours without bothering for their personal convenience and comforts.

Last but not the least, I am also thankful to my wife Mrs. Sushila Priyadarshee and my son Shri Virendrasinh who are my constant and the best source of inspiration and fortitude to take this research work to its logical end and without their unflinching support and cooperation, I would not have been able to complete this work on time. I hope they will forgive me for social distancing even from them which was resorted to whenever was needed for quite longer duration due to the pressure of work of this research and other so many pressing assignments.

Once again my gratitude, thankfulness and appreciation to each and every one who has contributed to this research endeavour in one way or the other.

Rajan P. Priyadarshee