Acknowledgement

What an amazing but exhaustive journey it has been! I still cannot believe that I have come to the part where I am writing my acknowledgement. It has been three long years since Prof. Dabir had first suggested that I could work on this topic for my Ph.D. Thereafter, it has been like a flowing river, conceptualising the idea, developing scales, collecting data, analysing and then finally writing the report. Lots of people have motivated, taught and helped me to bring it all together. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of them heartily.

First and foremost, I would like to thank my guide, Prof. Neela Dabir and my Doctoral Advisory Committee, Prof. Devi Prasad and Prof. M. Nigudkar, for their continuous support and dedication. All through, my guide had been like a second mother to me. She has nurtured and helped me through thick and thin. She has always been there for me, just a phone call away. My special gratitude to Prof. Devi Prasad for helping me develop the scales and guiding me all through the analysis and presentation of the statistical data. Thank you Sir, for providing patient answers to my incessant questions and e-mails. Without your technical support, this study would not have been possible.

I would also like to thank all my friends and family for their contribution towards the research, especially my husband, Bulan who has been a wonderful friend in times of frustration.

I am also very grateful to all the organisations who gave me permission to conduct the research, the participants and other people in the field.

Finally, thank you Gohonzon for being my strength and energy through all the sleepless days and nights.