ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This thesis is the end of my journey in obtaining my Ph.D. I have not travelled in a vacuum in this journey. This thesis has been kept on track and been seen through to completion with the support and encouragement of numerous people including my family, well wishers, my friends, colleagues and various institutions. At the end of my work on this thesis, I would like to thank all those people who made this thesis possible.

First of all I wish to express my gratitude to my guide, Prof. (Dr.) Lina Kashyap, Deputy Director, Tata Institute of Social Sciences. This work would not have been possible without her constant guidance and encouragement. Her wholehearted support helped me overcome many difficulties and made this work an enriching process. I learned a lot because of her valuable suggestions and feedback. She has always inspired me to contribute to the field of social work meaningfully and with dedication. I can only say a proper thanks to her through my future work.

I am also extremely indebted to my DAC members, Dr. Geeta Balakrishnan, Principal – College of Social Work, Nirmala Niketan and Dr. Srilatha Juvva, Associate Professor, Centre for Disability Studies and Action, School of Social Work, Tata Institute of Social Sciences for their valuable advice, creative insights and extensive discussions around my work. Both of them had very demanding work-schedules and large workload, despite that always gave me time for discussions and feedback.

I gratefully acknowledge Prof. (Dr.) Vrinda Datta for her understanding, encouragement and constant support as the Discussant throughout the process. I am thankful to Dr. Madhura N. for her suggestions and moral support during my research.

This research would not have been possible without close collaboration with seven schools. I owe a great deal of appreciation and gratitude to Bombay Institution for Deaf and Mute, Vikas Vidyalaya for the Hearing Handicapped, Rochiram T. Thadani School for Hearing Handicapped, Mook Dhwani Vidyalaya - Utkarsh Mandal, Disha School for the Deaf, Sanskardham School for the Hearing Impaired and Rotary Sanskardham School for the Hearing Impaired for giving me permission and helping me throughout the data collection process.

Special thanks go to Mr. Gunwant Koli (Principal, Bombay Institute for Deaf and Mute), Ms. Poonam Sawant (Principal, Rochiram T. Thadani School for the Hearing Handicapped), Ms. Shubhada Satpute, (Vice Principal, Rochiram Thadani School for the Hearing Handicapped), Ms. Nilima Gupte, (Principal, Vikas Vidyalaya), Ms. Yashodhara Waghmare (Vice Principal, Vikas Vidyalaya), Ms. Lata Nayak (Principal, Rotary Sanskardham School for the Hearing Impaired), Ms. Geeta Shejwal, (Principal, Sanskardham School for the Hearing Impaired) Ms. Sadhana Sapre (Principal, Usha Jamnerkar Mookdhwan Vidyalaya of Utkarsh Mandal) and Ms. Rekha Shirali (Principal, Disha Karnabadhir Vidyalaya) who not only gave me permission for
data collection in the schools but adjusted their hectic work-schedules to make time for it. I am indebted to them.

My special acknowledgements go to the professionals who gave me feedback regarding content validity of my data collection tools. All these individuals have been working in the field for more than ten years and their experience as well as expertise made their suggestions invaluable for my research. Words are short to express my deep sense of gratitude towards following individuals who gave me feedback regarding content validity of my data collection tools:

Ms. Vijaya Khare, Committee Member – Pragati Kendra who also has experience of teaching children with hearing impairment;

Mr. Gunwant Koli, Principal, Bombay Institution for Deaf and Mute (BIDM);

Ms. Sangita Thakur, Social Worker, BIDM;

Ms. Namrata Kulkarni, Social Worker, Rochiram Thadani School for the Hearing Handicapped;

Ms. Smita Abhyankar, Social Worker, Late Smt. Usha Jamnerkar Mookdhwani Vidyalaya (also works with Sanskarshram School for the Hearing Impaired and Disha Karnabadhir Vidyalaya);

Ms. Mehtab Shaikh, Senior teacher, BIDM;

Ms. Swati Bhave, Teacher, Late Smt. Usha Jamnerkar Mookdhwani Vidyalaya –Her inputs as a teacher and as a person with hearing impairment, were invaluable;

Ms. Pranjali Kanade, (M. A. in Linguistics.) She has developed curriculum for different clientele, including one for the children with hearing impairment in primary education; and

Ms. Anuradha Satyanarayan, Founder member and Director, Disha Counselling Centre (She gave oral feedback on the data collection tools due to time constraints).

It’s my fortune to gratefully acknowledge the support of some special individuals. I wish to express my appreciation to Ms. Vibhawari Dhabe, social worker of Vikas Vidyalaya, who continued to help me even after she was transferred to another government organisation. My sincere acknowledgements to the special teachers Ms. Madhuri Patil, Ms. Mehtab Shaikh, Ms. Sheela Kharat and Ms. Neha Prabhu, for their help during data collection.

Words are short to express my deep sense of gratitude towards the students, teachers, social workers and Principals who participated in my research and shared their rich experiences and perceptions with me on school recreation. It is they who have made this endeavour meaningful.

It is a pleasure to mention my friends, Dr. Samta Pandya, Ms. Mohua Nigudkar and Dr. Yamini Suvarna for their constant support and encouragement. I feel highly indebted to Ms. Vrinda Kulkarni for her help during the process.

My husband, Kedar, has been an incredible support from the beginning of my Ph.D. till the completion of thesis. My family members –Aamod, Pratibha, Manasee, Aasawari and Rajasee were always there whenever I needed support, motivation or somebody to talk to. Last but not
the least, I would like to express appreciation and respect to my mother and parents in law for their sincere and generous help, encouragement and inspiration throughout my research work which helped me in this uphill journey. It is to them I owe the successful completion of this project. There are several people who have knowingly and unknowingly helped me in completing my doctoral thesis and I wish to express heartfelt thanks to them.