Acknowledgement

Ph.D. though is awarded to an individual; nevertheless it is a joint effort where contributions of many others, in the form of help, appreciation and encouragement are to be duly acknowledged. There are so many persons involved—directly or indirectly—in such a study that it becomes inevitable to do justice to everybody by bringing their names in black and white.

In this regard, I owe my deep sense of gratitude to my guide Prof V P. Bharadwaj for his constant support during the study in terms of important inputs at crucial times, guidance and motivation in completion of the study.

Shri A.M. Bharadwaj, IAS, the then Director, Mahatma Gandhi labour Institute, Ahmedabad deserves special thanks as he was the one who gave me an opportunity to venture in this new area and permitted me to carry out my study along with regular research work. The seminar and workshop organized by Mahatma Gandhi Labour Institute provided me an opportunity to interact with eminent scholars in the areas of disability and rehabilitation.

Thanks are also due to Dr. Sudarshan Iyanger, Vice Chancellor, Gujarat Vidhyvaith; Dr. B.B. Patel, Ex-Faculty Mahatma Gandhi Labour Institute; and Dr. Hansa Jain, Associate Prof. Sardar Patel Institute of Economic and Social Research, for their kind support right from the stage of conceptualization to data analysis.

Numerous organisations like Blind People’s Association, Apang Manav Mandal, The Society for the Physically Handicapped, Meet International Disability Helpline, Apang Ekta Samiti, Office of Disability Commissioner have also provided helpful secondary data and information.

I am greatly indebted to prominent individuals in the field of disability and rehabilitation from Ahmedabad specially Dr. Bhushan Punani, Dr. Nanadini Raval, Shri C.D Pankh, Shri Kanubhai Shelar and Dr. Bhaskar Mehta for their help in gathering significant information.

I would like to place on record the thanks to all those physically challenged in Ahmedabad for their valuable support and time allotted to me for the successful completion of the study.
In addition, special thanks are due to Prof. Balabhaskaran, Director IBS-Ahmedabad for providing sufficient time and infrastructure in the course of this study.

In vain, I am immensely thankful to my family members - My wife, Jayshree, son, Meet and parents for their unconditional moral support throughout the course of my study.