ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It’s an overwhelming feeling to have completed the doctoral research. This entire research process has been a very interesting journey taking me through a spectrum of emotions. It’s now time to pay gratitude to all those individuals who lent support in this journey. At the outset, I would like to express my gratitude to my supervisor Professor Dr. Lakshmi Lingam for her immense support and guidance. Dr. Lakshmi has helped me grow as a researcher. Working with her has been a very enriching experience for me as she always encouraged me to explore the field. Her feedback helped me greatly to improve the quality of my work. Her constant encouragement and support throughout the research process enabled me to accomplish this research.

I am thankful to Prof. Sayeed Unissa, International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai and Dr. Mathew George for their inputs to the research work as Doctoral Advisory Committee members. Their insightful feedback at different stages of the research helped me to stay focussed and shaped my work. I appreciate the feedback given by Dr. Meena Gopal at the proposal stage which was helpful for the finalisation of research methodology. I wish to thank Dr. S. Sivakami and Dr. Anil Sutar for their inputs during the synopsis presentation.

I extend gratitude to the administrative staff at the Doctoral Students Office for their prompt response to all my queries from time to time. Ms. Purnima Kadam and Mr. Anil Datar need to be mentioned specially for facilitating the administrative procedures required for the doctoral research to be completed.

I express heartfelt gratitude to all the respondents in my research for sharing their stories with me. Without them, this research would not have been possible. I thank them for they accepted my intrusion in their private spheres and let me reveal their stories through the thesis. Talking to these women, seeing their hardships from a closer view has inspired me and reaffirmed my aspiration to further women’s rights. I wish to pay gratitude to all those individuals like ASHAs, aanganwadi workers, staff of public health facilities in the field area who have helped me to successfully
accomplish the field work. I wish to thank the NGOs, MASUM and Rachana for their support during the field work in Pune district.

Special thanks to all my colleagues in SATHI, who encouraged me in this process and allowed me to dedicate time for the doctoral research. Discussions with Dr. Abhay Shukla and Dr. Arun Gadre have provided better understanding of the health care system which was important to contextualise the research findings. I am thankful to them for their insightful comments on my research. I would like to extend sincere thanks to my friends from the women’s health movement especially friends from CommonHealth who have helped me understand the politics of women’s health rights.

Friends and family members have been the biggest source of support and encouragement in this process. I would like to thank my PhD batch mates, Ms. Shankhrupa Damle and Dr. Alka Barua for boosting my morale from time to time. I am indebted to my family for their constant support. My father, Mr. Gajanan Nanal and mother, Mrs. Meena Nanal have been extremely supportive throughout my entire education. Without their strong support, I would not have reached here. My father in law, Dr. Jagdish Sardeshpande and mother in law, Mrs. Smita Sardeshpande have immensely helped me to accomplish the doctoral research. The blessings of my parents and in laws have made this journey smooth. I am beholden to my sister, Mrs. Shubhangi Kelkar who has made this journey possible for me by sharing my responsibilities and uplifting my spirit from time to time. I wish to thank my partner, Narendra and daughter, Urvee from the bottom of my heart. They have constantly boosted my confidence and made this achievement possible. I express my gratitude to both of them for their support.

Nilangi Sardeshpande