ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am truly indebted and thankful to my research guide Prof. Aruna Khasgiwala, Faculty of Social Work, Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda for her able guidance and consistent feedback. Her valuable inputs have helped me to improve upon my work. Her unfailing confidence in my strengths and her firmness has helped me complete my research work on time. I thank her once again for encouraging me to work on this area of research, which gave me an opportunity to be a sensitive and a caring individual in my life.

I owe my sincere thanks to Prof. M.N. Parmar, Dean and Head, Faculty of Social Work, Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda for his support, encouragement and cooperation while I was pursing my PhD at the Faculty.

I am obliged to the teaching staff members at the Faculty of Social work. They have provided useful insights and feedback to me during my research pursuit. I wish to especially thank Prof. Chaya Patel, Dr. Leena Mehta, Dr. Maniyar, Dr. Jagadish Solanki, Dr. Ankur Saxena, Dr. Sunita Nambiyar, Dr. Bhavna Mehta, Dr. Ila Rawal and Dr. A.B. Desai, for their specific suggestions to me while I was a PhD student at the Faculty.

I am grateful to the members on the panel who were present for the periodic PhD seminars at the Faculty of social work, for their useful suggestions and inputs. Also, I wish to thank my colleagues Ms. Sunita Jolly and Ms. Mittal Petiwala, research scholars at the Faculty of Social Work for their help in many ways.

I owe my thanks to Mr. Madhukar and Mr. Chalke, the administrative staff, the library staff and the other non-teaching staff at the Faculty of Social Work for their help and support during my PhD programme at the Faculty.
I am grateful to Prof. Prerana Mohite, the then Dean for her support, and Prof. Uma Joshi, the current Dean, Faculty of Family and Community Sciences, M.S University who was on the expert panel of my PhD seminar, for her useful feedback.

My sincere and heartfelt thanks are to Prof. Rajalakshmi Sriram, Head, Department of Human Development and Family Studies, and senior colleague Prof. Shagufa Kapadia who was the earlier Head of the Department, who have always been helpful and supportive while I was pursuing my research work. The opportunity given to me at the Department in terms of supervising the field work at the Jalaram Trust Old age home provided me practical insights useful for my research work.

I am thankful to my other faculty colleagues at the Department of Human Development and Family Studies, M.S University of Baroda where I have taught for three years, for their help and cooperation.

I owe my gratitude to Dr. Indira Jai Prakash, Professor (Rtd.) Department of Psychology, Bangalore University for initially indicating to me about this interesting and pressing topic for research, to Dr. Parul Dave, Professor (Rtd.) Department of Human Development and Family Studies (MSU), and Dr. T.K Nair, Secretary, Centre for the Welfare of the Aged (CEVA) for their valuable suggestions on the research design of the study. Dr. Sushma Batra, Professor & Head, and Dr. Sanjai Bhatt, Professor at the Department of Social Work, University of Delhi have spared their valuable time to offer their critical remarks on the objectives and conceptual framework of my topic, and for their encouraging feedback on the progress of my work.

I am thankful to the Center for Social Studies (CSS), Surat for considering me under their Consultancy and Guidance Programme and to Dr. Satyakam Joshi for his useful remarks on the interview schedule. The suggestions of Shri.Vimal Trivedi were particularly helpful in the coding of the interview schedule and I am grateful to him for the same. I extend my thankfulness to Prof. Bishwaroop Das, Dr. Akash Acharya and Dr. Gagan Sahu of the CSS for their professional advice. I am really thankful to Mr. Ashish Nikam who did a major part of the data entry work in an efficient manner.
I would like to thank the librarians at CSS, Surat, TISS, Mumbai and NIMHANS, Bangalore for permitting access to the library for me to carry out the literature review for the study.

I thank Mr. Gopala Rao, typist at Andhra University, Visakhapatnam for his skillful formatting of the Ph.D. report at the final stage.

My family – *Nanna & Amma*, Nora *akka*, brother-in-law Naveen and my little nephew Navvu have been extending their care and understanding during my Ph.D. work. I am especially grateful to my father and mother for helping me in setting timeline for the completion of my Ph.D. work, and to my sister for always appreciating my efforts. My father Prof. B. Devi Prasad has been a source of support and inspiration to me throughout the period of my study. I am once again thankful to all of them.

I am grateful to my close friends Dharitri Rathore, Anu Paradkar, Smita Sahai, and Tarjeet Kaur, for their help and constant encouragement during the period.

Most important of all, I owe my gratitude to the elderly respondents of the study who have consented to be a part of my research work, and brought about a positive change and growth in me. The experiences have been particularly useful in strengthening my professional being. My interaction with the older people during the past two years as part of the data collection has enriched my thinking not only about the subject but also about the existential realities in the lives of the elderly. I sincerely hope to bring forth the collective voices of the elderly who were a part of this study to appropriate public and policy spaces, so that it initiates required changes. My special thanks are to all the elderly with whom I have interacted during my field visits, for their rich contribution to this study.

Vadodara
Date: 18-12-12

(SMITA BAMMIDI)