ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This doctoral research is the cumulative outcome of constant guidance, close supervision, hard work and in this effort it gives me immense pleasure and a sense of honour to be able to express my feelings of gratitude to one and all who have contributed for the successful completion of the present investigation.

**Prerana Mam**

I owe a primary debt to my research guide, Prof. Prerana Mohite, Department of Human Development of Family Studies, Faculty of Home Science, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Gujarat. Mam has been a great source of inspiration and towering strength for my being coherent and concise during my research work. The openness and freedom she offered and the confidence she placed on me really enabled me to think more spontaneously and be organized in penning down my thoughts on paper. Despite her multidimensional responsibilities, she most affectionately extended kind cooperation, consistent encouragement and timely painstaking advice and help which made this otherwise difficult task distinctly easier for me to achieve. It has been a great joy and proud to have her as a guide. I consider myself fortunate enough to become her student. For all her affection and generous help I owe my esteemed teacher, a great debt which can hardly be expressed in printed words.

**Shagufa Mam**

I am extremely grateful to Dr. Shagufa Kapadia, Reader, Department of Human Development of Family Studies, Faculty of Home Science, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Gujarat. Mam not only inspired me in my early days of doctoral work but meticulously went through the entire first drafts of my work and enriched it with valuable comments and suggestions.
Ph.D Committee and Staff members of the Department of Human Development and Family Studies

I want to express my special appreciation to the Ph.D. committee who have been flexible enough and provided the scope for autonomy and innovations in research and course work. I owe my heartfelt thanks to Prof. Parul Dave, Offg. Head, Department of Human Development of Family Studies, Faculty of Home Science, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Gujarat, and other staff members of the department for their valuable suggestion and guidance. I have benefitted immensely from the advice, criticism and encouragement of several staff members who made constructive suggestion and provided thoughtful reaction at various stages of my research work.

Validation Experts and Scholars

I wish to thank the multidisciplinary team of experts, who agreed to valid the tool. I acknowledge and value the time and interest they have put in my research work. I am indebted to many scholars who have provided me with ideas, discussion, critical comments and other help that went into making of this work. Special thanks goes to Mr. K. Puspanadham, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Education and Psychology, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Gujarat and my M.Sc. Teacher and Guide, Dr. Sophia Gir, Associate Professor, Department of Human Development of Family Studies, College of Home Science, Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology, Udaipur.

Participant Families

Special thanks to the parents, teachers and children who gave their time, cooperation and warmly welcomed me in their homes.
Friends

My friends in the hostel who always cheerfully helped me for completion of thesis work also deserve my sincere thanks. My special thanks go to my room mate Trupti di. Though from a different professional background, she provided me with valuable advices at various junctures of my research work and otherwise. I further appreciate my friends Reema di, Sonia, Monika di, Monali, Jayshree, Kiran, Annu, Bhamini and Roma for their assistance in many ways.

Parents and Sisters

Words can hardly express my depth of gratitude for the unbounded love, care and encouragement provided by my father Mr. K.P. Sharma, my mother Mrs. K. Sharma and my sisters Dr. Vandana and Geetika. Thanks is a small word, but it means really big for my parents and their blessings that has kept me going, my father who is a beckon of inspiration and encouragement and my mother, who has supported and applauded my academic efforts constantly.