ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am immensely grateful to my guide Prof. (Dr.) Prerana Mohite, Dean, Faculty of Home Science for her constant support, guidance, patience and critical inputs which have provided direction and precision to my work. Thank you madam for being my inspiration in many ways.

Thanks to Dr. S. Kapadia, Head, Department of Human Development and Family Studies for her guidance and support and for facilitating the process of my study leave.

Special thanks to the M.S. University of Baroda for my study leave.

My special thanks to the teachers, supervisors of Shaishav School and Mira the Happy School for granting permission for and being part of the research process.

Sincere thanks to the parents who let me into their homes and without hesitation shared their life experiences, hopes, despairs and challenges. Without their support this work would not have taken form.

Thanks to Archana, Khadija, Ankita for assisting in the research process.
Thank you Jigisha for your constant support, moral boosting and for being a true friend.

Thanks are also due to Hinaben, Sangeeta and Dhruti for their encouragement in the entire process.

Sincere thanks to Mr. Vijay Shrivishal for his prompt and excellent typing assistance.

A special word of thanks to my parents, husband and children for their unconditional support, love and encouragement that helped me achieve my goal.