ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

"Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name." - Old Testament; Psalms 100:3-4

Deep gratitude for the strength and blessings showered on me by God, for opening doors one after the other and for sending people who helped me navigate smoothly through every situation.

First of all, I am extremely indebted to my Supervisor, Prof. Gautam K. Kshatriya who has been a guide and mentor in true sense and whose sound advice and unsurpassed knowledge of population genetics and tribal communities of India laid the foundation of my research problem. Sir, you have indeed been my teacher, pushing me to strive and helping me realizes my potential. Your valuable advice and constructive criticism have helped me in evolving intellectually. Your constant support and guidance helped in experimenting and venturing new venues. Working under you has been a fabulous experience at scientific as well as personal level. I shall forever treasure this association.

I would also like to thank both present and previous Heads of the Department, Department of Anthropology, Prof. S. L. Malik and Prof. P. K. Ghosh for providing all the resources to accomplish my research and for always inspiring me to think better. I also take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to the members of my supervisory board, Dr. K.N. Saraswathy and Prof. M.P. Sachdeva, for providing valuable suggestions during my research tenure. I am also grateful to Prof. V. R. Rao (Dept. of Anthropology, Delhi) for guiding me in getting permission to work in the Mysore Lab of Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI). I would also like to acknowledge Dr. A. Chandrasekar for allowing me to use their lab facilities and for providing valuable academic insights throughout my work period in the AnSI.
The financial assistance in the form of UGC-NET-JRF/SRF by University Grant Commission is duly acknowledged. I would also like to acknowledge the cooperation extended by the technical and non technical staff of Department of Anthropology, Delhi, AnSI, Mysore and places I visited during the course of my research work in Delhi, Gujarat and Mysore.

I want to express my earnest gratitude towards the people of Valsad Raktdan Kendra, especially, Dr. Y. Italia, Dr. Bharat Desai, Bhavesh Bhai and his family, Bhaskar Sir, Manoj Bhai, Preeti Behen, Raman Bhai, Zarir Bhai, Santosh Bhai, Mahendera Bhai, Sister Ciceley and her team for rendering extreme help and support during my field work and for giving me a homely atmosphere.

I especially owe great obligations to the people of Chaudhari tribe. I fall short of words in expressing their ceaseless support towards the accomplishment of my work and for treating me as an insider. I am highly grateful to all those people who donated samples for the accomplishment of the study and also those who helped in sampling. Special gratitude goes to Girish Bhai Chaudhari and his family, for not only guiding me in my work, but also provided a great support during my visits to Surat. I owe them so much for their care and hospitality. I am extremely thankful to Manoj Bhai Chaudhari, Reva Bhai Chaudhari, Raman Bhai Chaudhari, Ashok Bhai Chaudhari and Dr. Arvind Bhatt for their constant support, love and guidance towards me and my work. Thank you very much for your hospitality and generosity.

“Some people go to priests; others to poetry, I to my friends”-Virginia Woolf.

This acknowledgement will be incomplete without the mention of my dear friends who have played a key role in my life’s journey. My heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Aastha Aggarwal for putting up with all my eccentricities and always being there in my moments of joy and crisis. This research work would not have come to successful completion without your constant support and guidance. I also extend my thanks to Dr. Aniket Kumar in whom I found a great friend and who has always kept me grounded and showed the practical side of every situation. My special thanks to Ms. Siuli Mitra, for being a friend on whom I could fall back without any second thought. I wish that everyone find friends as genuine and selfless as you all are.
I was fortunate to have very supportive friends both in Department of Anthropology, University of Delhi and in AnSI, Mysore and I am thankful to all my colleagues in both the institutes. I would like to make a special mention of my friend Ms. Sabahat Noor, whose enthusiasm and will power was so inspiring, Ms. Suprabha Samanta, who was an epitome of commitment and dedication towards work and to Ms. Sini P.K and Ms. Ana Shagufta, for giving me the emotional support in my days of confusion. I would like to thank Mr. Srinivas Naidu Kovvali and Mr. Avinash Veerapa for their support, concern and well wishes. I would also like to acknowledge Mr I. Arjun Rao, my colleague in Anthropological survey of India for extended support in my work. My colleagues and friends Mr. H. Suraj Singh, Dr. Ipsa Pattanayak, Dr. Vipin Gupta, Dr. Gagan Gupta, Ms. Vani Kandpal, Mrs. Varsha Chauhan and Mr. Subhendu Acharya, deserve special thanks for providing good company and being extremely supportive.

In the end, I would like to express my most revered gratitude to my family for believing in me and rendering personal support and great patience at all times. Special thanks to my mother and father, sister-in-law Surbhi Khurana and brother Kapil Khurana and aunt Sushma Arora and uncle Dinesh Arora for their unequivocal support throughout, as always, for which any expression of thanks does not suffice. I express my heartiest gratitude to my sisters Shveta, Naina, Khushboo and my niece Harshal for bringing happiness, fun and infinite joy in my life. I express heartfelt gratitude to my friend Mr. Kirti R. Mallick and his family, for rendering inexhaustible encouragement and unconditional love. I owe my deepest gratitude to Prof. Devesh Sinha, for always being a source of inspiration and directly or indirectly imparting the essence of life.

Finally, I would like to thank all once again for making my doctoral research experience the most rewarding and enriching endeavor of my life.

Date:  

(Priyanka Khurana)