

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I owe my gratitude to each individual who has made this thesis possible with their persistent support. First of all, my heartfelt thanks are to the Almighty God who has always showered his blessings silently. My sincere gratitude is to my guide Dr. N.R. Shah, Retired Professor, Department of Museology, Faculty of Fine Arts, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara, Gujarat, and my Co-Guide, Professor Dr. Amita Pandya, Department of Clothing and Textiles, Faculty of Family and Community Sciences, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara, Gujarat for their huge knowledge, real guidance, constant support, continued existence and advice throughout the research work. I thank them for the trust instilled and for enhancing my skills. The encouraging personal guidance had not only provided a good foundation for the present thesis but shall lead a long way through my life.

I extend my sincere thanks to Dr. Ambika Patel, Professor and Head, Dept. of Museology, Faculty of Fine Arts, The M.S. University of Baroda for her kind help and guidance. Thanks are due to all the staff members of the Department of Museology particularly Mr. K.H. Rahevar, Mr. M.V. Rathwa and Mr. H. Rohit, Santoshbhai and Raisinghbhai for their support and help whenever required.

I want to thank Dr. Sunjay Jain, Retired Head, Department of Museology and Shri Vijay Bagodi, Dean, Faculty of Fine Arts, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara, Gujarat, for extending the departmental facilities as and when required.

I am deeply indebted to my father, Mahesh Kumar, Assistant Conservator, National Museum Conservation Laboratory, New Delhi, for his productive comments, encouragement, supportive guidance and extension of laboratory facilities for the second part of the research work.

I am grateful to the team of ATIRA (Ahmedabad Textile Industry's Research Association), for their timely help in testing the woollen samples.

I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to the curators and conservators of all the museums that I visited for the research purpose as well as to all the conservators in private practice who took out time from their busy schedules and guided me. I am also thankful to all the weavers from Gujarat, Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Nagaland who provided the ample information regarding the research.

Special gratitude is extended to all the respondents for permission to access their textile collections as a part of my research work.

Most importantly, none of this would have been possible without the love and affection of my family. I am very thankful to my beloved son Rithvik (2.5 years) and husband Mr. Sudhir Kumar who assisted me throughout the research work and accompanied me to every museum I visited. I fall short of words for my loving mother, mother in law and father in law whose support and encouragement helped me to overcome setbacks and stay focussed.

Special thanks are due to my friend Priyanka Tamta, Ph.D. student in Archaeology at IIT Guwahati for her inspiring words and moral support.

I am forever grateful to my parents and family members who deserve special mention for their care, blessings, wishes and constant motivation.

April 2019  
Vadodara

Deepti