

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

My heartfelt thanks are due to all those who have been helpful during my study.

Professor Subadra Seshadri, Head, Department of Foods and Nutrition, M S University of Baroda, Baroda for the invaluable guidance, patient training and effort to help me complete this research work.

Dr Shubhada Kanani, Reader, Department of Foods and Nutrition for devoting her precious time and experience with the presentation of the qualitative data.

Professor B K Chakraborty, former Head, Department of Foods and Nutrition, Dr Pallavi Mehta, Reader, Department of Foods and Nutrition, and Professor U V Mani, Department of Foods and Nutrition for their support during the study.

The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) authorities for permission to carry out the study, all the Anganwadi workers and helpers and all the subjects of the present study for their cooperation during data collection.

Ms Jayashree Kanuga of Shivshakti Pathological Laboratory and Mr & Mrs Dilipbhai Zaveri of Biocare Diagnostic for allowing me to work in their laboratories throughout my field work at Ahmedabad.

..

Mr Murti (late), Reader, Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad for his keen interest and valuable help with a part of the statistical analysis.

Mr Yaumin Thakore for his constant help, especially in entering and checking of the data in the computer.

To my husband, Saurin Thakore for his endless support and help in all phases of computerization : data entry, statistical analysis, typing, graphics, printing and preparation of this final document, which enabled me to complete my study.

Dr Vallabhbhai Mistry for his help during the final stages of writing and Prof Prafulbhai Thakore for proof-reading of the final draft of the thesis. Dr Jayeshbhai for allowing us to use his printer, enabling us to print the final document in the present form.

To all my family members for their blessing and prayers.

To my late parents, Mrs Minal and Mr Ranamal Thakore, who has been a constant source of encouragement and a motivating force, enabling me to undertake this task, to whom I dedicate this thesis.

BHUMI THAKORE