



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A Loving Thank You

Angels are people of kind nature,
messengers from God ~

Angels are true friends we can count on, those
who give no façade ~

I am thankful for those angels who remembered me
in kind gesture and offered me a helping hand ~

In appreciation for their thoughtfulness,
I would like to "give back" the best I can ~

And even though it is simple,
it is a method tried and true ~

I ask my Lord to bless these angels
and from me I give a sincere and loving ~

Thank You ~

- LaDonna Faye Hoopes

In the course of completion of this thesis, many people have made significant contributions. I would like to thank all who have helped me during my work in their own special ways.

... First and foremost my mentor, **Dr. Shagufa Kapadia**, Professor and HOD, Department of Human Development and Family Studies, whose guidance has made my doctoral research experience - inimitable, unforgettable and consequential. Her undivided attention, timely guidance, and personal concern encouraged me to put forth my best. I have learnt a lot from her, personally as well as professionally. Her immense

dedication has always been a constant source of inspiration throughout my research tenure. My research would not have taken present shape without her enthusiastic involvement in the work and valuable guidance at every step.

... Special thanks is due to all the experts in the field, **Dr. Sophia Gir, Dr. Nirupama Dave, Dr. Poonam Singh** from the Department of Human Development and Family Studies, College of Home Science, Udaipur, Rajasthan, **Dr. Usha Kumawat** (Department of Psychology and Education) and **Dr. Usha Sharma** (College of Social Work) for their meticulous comments which has helped my research to navigate smoothly, especially their expert observations in tool editing and contextualization of my research. Their attitude of '*you are always welcome!*' with a broad smile always made me feel at home in discussing my queries.

... Heartiest thanks to the **Principals** of the schools, **Mrs. Geeta Nair, Maharana Mewar Public School** and **Mrs. Alka Sharma, Central Public School**, for providing consent to conduct the research in respective schools. I deeply appreciate their friendly nature, co-operation, constant encouragement, and participation in the study.

...A special thanks is due to the **class teachers** who volunteered to become life skills educators by under going the Teachers' Training workshop and all the **students** of standard VIII of the schools as well as their **parents** who have contributed in my research. Their dedication for my program and spirit of learning has left me mesmerized. I can never forget my departing moments with them.

... I am also grateful to **Prof. Heather Mohay**, Queensland University, Australia for her critical comment on research proposal and methodology. Her unique way of

encouraging me to finish my research via continuous emails has been one of the constant motivation grounds, making my submission possible.

... I express my deepest gratitude to the **Dr. D. P. Singh**, Associate Professor, Department of Research Methodology, Tata Institute of Social Sciences for his precise inputs for advance statistical analysis of data on SPSS.

... Sincere thanks to **Mr. Sanat Kumar**, Tata Institute of Social Sciences for the data entry.

... I am grateful to my friends **Rachana Karnik, Jai, Dhruvi, Gayatri, Rachana Kulkarni, Vaishali, Sushama** and all others for their emotional support and creating a homely niche for me during my stay in Baroda.

....**Mum, Dad** and my **Sis**, for keeping up with my crankiness and idiosyncrasies during the course of five years of the completion of the degree.

...My daughter **Soumya**, whom I have ignored at times when I was working, and not paying attention to her...even getting angry at her at times...Thanks for bearing me up in difficult times...love you too much...

...**San**, my best buddy and better half for being there....for his support, unwavering back-up, friendly care, and unselfish love bestowed on me...