

Acknowledgements

I take this opportunity to thank all those who contributed towards my doctoral work. No contribution is direct or indirect because everything counts and my greatest thanks to my parents and my family members who always motivated and supported me to study and establish a career. Of course, it is not a smooth transition for family members but the patience to go with it keeps one moving. Special thanks to my brother Pradeep and my sister Perminder for motivating me in the turbulence and to move on.

I would like to thank Professor Rajalakshmi Sriram who has been a great support to me in all walks of life she is a great mentor and has always helped me learn throughout the research process. Topmost she is a person with a beautiful heart and with a long vision.

I am very thankful to my husband Jasprit Singh for being a great support and to always stand by me in every situation. The shift in life stages from being single to married itself is a challenge and PhD is an addition to this transition. His support and care never let me down and always makes me feel self confident and takes pride in my achievements. I also thank my friends Sukirti, Dr Apurva Pandya, Dr Smita Bammidi who always supported me in the way they could and constantly boost my morale.

I also thank the head of the department Professor Shagufa Kapadia for being very kind and considerate towards the schedules and the support that she extended.

I extend my gratitude to my colleagues in the department for their valuable suggestions and inputs to make my research better.

Special thanks to Rashmin Sir who guided me for SPSS and other statistical queries.

I would also thank Dr. Kishor Bhanushali for providing guidance for quantitative data analysis.

I extend my thanks to the university staff especially Milind Bhai for his concern and ready to support attitude and answering my questions with patience throughout for completing procedural matters of PhD.

I also thank the support staff of the department to assist me in the paper work related to PhD.

I am grateful to all the participants of the study for sparing time to share their experiences with me and have faith in me.