## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

There are many people who deserve my unending gratitude. First of all, I thank my doctoral guide Prof. Bimla Parimu who has been such a strong and invaluable asset throughout my doctoral work. She has advised and mentored me during my academic career.

I am greatly indebted to the department of psychology at the M S University of Baroda, for giving me the opportunity of pursuing my doctoral degree. Gratitude is also expressed for the members of the department of psychology for their constant encouragement and unrelenting support.

My sincere thanks to the Principals, teachers and parents of New Era Senior secondary school, Bright day school, Bright School and the Experimental School at university, for all the facilities provided by them during the course of data collection. I also thank each and every child who participated in my study.

My deepest gratitude to the countless number of experts who gave inputs in my work in un-assorted ways. I am sure the knowledge and skills that they have taught me will help me throughout my quest to serve in the field of Mental health.

As a Fulbright Fellow, I am extremely grateful to the J William Fulbright Scholarship Board, U.S Department of State and the USFEI, New Delhi for granting me the Fulbright Doctoral and Professional Fellowship. I am deeply indebted to Dr Sharon Raimondi, my advisor at the State University of New York at Buffalo, for

advising and guiding me through my fellowship period. I am truly thankful to her for all my experiences there and for giving me the opportunity to gain expertise overseas.

Lastly, it would be remiss not to mention the underpinnings of my success- my family and my friends. I am truly blessed to have you and your unconditional support.

Anuradha S

March' 11