

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I owe my gratitude to Dr Shubhada J Kanani, Reader, Department of Foods and Nutrition for her invaluable guidance and support throughout the course of this study.

I am indebted to Prof. S. Seshadri, Head, Department of Foods and Nutrition for the encouragement and moral support she provided at various stages of my work. I wish to express my sincere gratitude to Prof. Tara Gopaldas for guidance during the initial phases of this study and to Prof. B.K. Chakraborty for the timely and valuable help provided towards the completion of this study.

I thank the Indian Council of Agricultural Research for awarding me the Senior Research Fellowship which made this study possible.

I am thankful to Dr. Nirmal Jain, Noble Diagnostic Centre, Indore for providing me with the laboratory facilities required for this study. I acknowledge with gratitude the help and support provided by Dr. Kiran Shinglot, Prof. C.K. Seshadri, Dr. Jaydev Kanani and Mrs. and Mr. P.R. Gharekhan.

Mr. P.N. Sumedh, Mr. P. Nair and Mr. S. Reddy of Operations Research Group, Baroda, deserve my gratitude for their kindness and generosity in helping me with the figures presented in this thesis. Special thanks are due to Razia, Nisha, Jai, Sonali and Daksha for their willing help. I wish to express my sincere thanks to Mr. I.A. Rangwala for timely and excellent typing of this thesis.

It is not possible to mention here the names of all my friends and wellwishers who encouraged and helped me in various ways but I take this opportunity to express my gratitude and appreciation to all of them.

It gives me great pleasure to express my profound gratitude and special thanks to my parents, my husband and my brother for their blessings, understanding, patience and support without which I could not have completed this study.

Priti Khanna