## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

If I have to name a person who not only instilled in me the love for this subject but also stood by me like a pillar of utmost strength, it has to be my guide, **Prof. Ashir S Mehta**. His energy, passion towards subject and support was just what I required. No words can express how thankful I am for your suggestions, time and support throughout my thesis.

I would also like to thank **Mr. Mayank Ray**, Population Research Center, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, for guiding me think through my statistical situations. Thank you for your encouragement during this difficult time. The only person, apart from my guide, who believed that I could pull this off.

I am also grateful to all my friends who have also been supportive despite being far away. The cheerful and motivational talked made me believe myself.

Last but not the least, I would like to thank my family for bearing with me during these years and for their unconditional love. I would like to extend special gratitude to my husband and my 7 year old son for understanding me and my goals.