ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My doctoral research journey has been enriching and empowering with the guidance and support of many people. I would like to extend my gratitude to all of them.

Foremost, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my advisor Prof. K. Pushpanadham for the constant encouragement and guidance. His expertise and valuable feedback helped me expand my research acumen and perspectives. Timely guidance has helped me succeed in all the phases of research and the completion of this thesis.

I am thankful to Prof. R.C. Patel, Head of the Department of Education, Centre for Advanced Study in Education (CASE) and the Dean of the Faculty of Education and Psychology, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda for his support and encouragement.

I would like to express my special gratitude to Prof. Aaron Benavot, Fulbright Academic advisor for hosting me at The University at Albany, SUNY, New York, USA during my Fulbright Nehru Doctoral Research Fellowship. The opportunities he provided facilitated me to extend my professional network, and his insightful comments helped me fine-tune my research work.

Thanks should go to all my professors at the Regional Institute of Education, Mysore, and the Department of Education (CASE), The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda for their good teaching and for instilling research interest in me.

I would like to thank the experts for validating research tools and for their expert advice. Also, my thanks go to the schools for allowing me to visit and conduct research. In addition, I thank and acknowledge principals, coordinators, teachers, and students for sharing their lived experiences with me.

My participation in the IB International Conference helped gain a better understanding of IBO structure and its practices worldwide. Thanks to the IB research team for their valuable suggestions on my research work. Many thanks to all the research scholars at CASE, The Maharaja Sayajirao University and SEAChange, UAlbany for stimulating discussion, sharing statistical expertise, and comradery. I thank all the teaching and non-teaching staff at the Faculty of Education and Psychology for their cooperation.

Finally, I thank my family and friends for their constant belief in me and for keeping my spirits high during this journey.

I hope this research inspires more inquiries in the future.