ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

With a deep sense of gratitude, I wish to express my sincere thanks to Prof (Dr) Pallavi Mehta for her invaluable guidance throughout this study. Her tireless patience, encouragement, understanding and constant reminding of the fact that, "solutions find their own way out of every difficult situation", made me work harder when going got tough at times. Without her vision, this work would not have been possible. It was under her mentorship that I have truly learned the joy of research.

I would also like to extend my thanks to **Prof (Dr) U.V.Mani**, Head, Department of Foods and Nutrition, Faculty of Home Science, M.S.University of Baroda, for providing the departmental facilities during the course of study.

A word of thanks to **Prof. Subadra Seshadri**, ex-head, Department of Foods and Nutrition, Faculty of Home Science, M.S.University of Baroda, ex-head, Department of Foods and Nutrition, Faculty of Home Science, M S University of Baroda for her valuable advice and enlightening criticism during the initial part of the study.

Acknowledgements are gratefully extended to Dr. C. I. Jhala, Honorary Associate Director, Jivraj Mehta Hospital and Dr.V.C.Shah, Chairman Research Advisory Boards for partly funding the present study. I would also like to acknowledge Dr. Suman Lal, Research Coordinator, Jivraj Mehta Hospital for her unstinting cooperation and assistance given to me for carrying out a part of the study in the Jivraj Mehta Hospital. My deep appreciation and sincere thanks to Monaben and Meenaben, research staff, research department for their encouragement and support.

Thanks are also due to Mrs. Bhanuben Naik, Head, Pathology Lab, Jivraj Mehta Hospital for assisting me in carrying out the biochemical parameters. I must also express my appreciation to Brijesh and other staff of the research department and pathology lab for their help.

I am indebted to **Dr. Suresh Agarwal**, Associated Professor, SSG Hospital for providing me with the necessary help and assisting me in enrolling the patients suffering from oral cancer. Thanks are also due to **Dr. Kamal Pathak**, Medical Superintendent for allowing me to carry out a part of the study in the SSG Hospital.

I wish to express my profounc gratitude to **Dr. B.V. Bala**, Assistant Professor, PSM Department, V.S.Hospital, Ahmedabad for her keen interest shown in the present study. I am grateful for her ever willing cooperation in helping me with the statistical analysis of my data in the present study.

I am also indebted to all my subjects that I interviewed during the course of researching. Without their time, cooperation, willingness and inputs, this research would never have reached frution.

A special word of thanks and appreciation to Sunita who was with me through some of my tiring times. I would also like to thank Deepa and Tejal for their assistance given to me during the course of the study.

A heartfelt gratitude to my beloved **Dada** and **Shyamlee** for their valuable contribution, timely help, support and encouragement given to me inspite of their very busy work schedule is highly appreciable. My love and appreciation to my husband **Mahesh**, whose never ending patience, support and understanding helped me get over the testing time with new found zeal and enthusiasm. I wouldn't have gotten where I am today without the sacrifices made by Aai and **Baba** all along the way. My love and affection to them for their immense faith, constant support, unflagging warmth, encouragement and understanding throughout the study period.

Finally thanks to the Almighty for leading me to the right way. Also I would like to thank all others who knowingly or unknowingly made this work possible.

Bhagyashree Shringarpure