

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am reminded of *The Alchemist*, in which Paulo Coelho quotes, “When you want something, the entire Universe conspires in helping you to achieve it”. So apart from thanking the whole of the Universe and The Almighty, I would like to name the significant few who made this work from impossible to possible.

I am extremely grateful and privileged to have worked under the guidance of Prof. Urmi Nanda Biswas, Department of Psychology, The M.S. University of Baroda, Vadodara. She has been a true source of inspiration, who stood like a wall for me and saw me through in times of adversities. Her constant encouragement to make the best come out of me, her unbeatable patience in correcting my errors, and her expertise in statistics is truly unmatched. Working under her, has provided me with greater insights, not just on the subject matter, but on life in general.

I wish to express deep gratitude to my mother, Jayshree Patel, who is the force I reckoned on. She made me realize that realizing her dream will soar me to heights. Her unconditional support is God’s most precious gift.

A Heartfelt thanks to my husband, Yogin Patel, whose constant assertions made me wake up and take the task in hand. God Bless him!

I would like to thank my darling daughter, Dhiya, who watched me with amazement and amusement, wondering what on earth her mother was doing all day long in front of the computer. Her understanding at the age of two and half, not to disturb her mother, worked as a boon for me.

My sincere thanks to my sister, who was always around to listen to my woes and cries centering on my thesis. Her support in helping me gain certain book resources is unmatched.

I would also wish to express my deepest gratitude to my mother-in-law, Uma Patel, who inculcated in me a sense of self-discipline. Her support, made the chaotic work-life balance less chaotic and more manageable.

I owe a big thank you to Prof. Uma Joshi, Dean, Faculty of Family and Community Sciences, The M.S. University of Baroda, for always guiding me in the right direction and helping me make the right decisions in life.

My sincere thanks to Jatin Patel, a fellow research scholar and research assistant, at the Department of Psychology, Faculty of Education and Psychology, The M.S University of Baroda for being ever so willing to help me out with technical difficulties. His expertise in computers saved me time and energy.

I would also like to extend my gratitude to Nazish Campwala, an employee at Blue Bird Foundation, who helped me out in typing of the thesis. Her timely support ensured the completion of my work.

My sincere thanks to the Department of Psychology, and all the staff members, for being ever so supportive and kind. It gives me immense pleasure to be a part of this Psychology family.

Last, but not the least, I am grateful to all the organizations and their respective heads, for granting me with permission to carry out my data collection.

Dhvani Patel

March 2014