

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to all those who have supported and encouraged me during my thesis journey. The compilation of the thesis is possible only with the endless support extended by my mentor and my guide, my parents, my husband and family and friends.

I want to start by expressing my gratitude to my thesis advisor & mentor Prof. (Dr.) Anjali Karolia, Head of Department of Clothing and textiles and Former Dean of Faculty of Family and Community Sciences, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, for her valuable guidance and critical appraisal of my research work. I am grateful for her valuable advice, inspiration, and support throughout the entire research period. Her contribution of knowledge and experience towards bettering my research is boundless, and I sincerely appreciate her dedication towards my achievement. I feel truly blessed to be her under her guidance as a student. She has always boosted my self determination to achieve my research goals. The critical discussions on evaluating and deliberating the results to improvise and better the research outcomes and to focus on the smaller goals to be achieved. Her patience is admirable as during the course of study there have been down times but through her out of the way extended help have always made me believe in myself. Throughout the course of my research work I have evolved from mind and personality and it was only possible through the life lessons that she has taught me. She has guided me to the right paths and through that I have achieved greater heights in my career and have realized the value of being a patient human over everything. She has made me identify and focus on my strengths and through that today I am in the position of thesis completion only due to her tireless support and guidance. Eternally thankful to my guide for all her support throughout.

I would like to thank Dr. Prof. Madhu Sharan, former Head of the department to extend her expertise and valued suggestions for the betterment of my research. I would also like to extend a sincere gratitude towards all the staff members of the department for extending their valuable inputs during Ph.D seminars and progressives to improve my research.

Through the course of the research I met so many people who have in some or the other way contributed to small bits of my research, I would like to take a moment to thank The Director of The National Handicrafts and Handloom Museum, Delhi for permitting me to access and

study the artifacts of the museum, and to all the other staff of crafts museum namely, Md. Ansari ji for assisting me while handling the artifacts, in charge of Textile Gallery, Mr. Anil Bharadwaj the official photographer of crafts museum for clicking all the pictures of the artifacts during the research. Ms. Namrata former curator and conservator at the crafts Museum Delhi for assisting me to analyze the report for documenting the crafts. I would like to extend my thanks to all the museums and libraries that I have visited during the course of my study. Nevertheless I would like to thank Dr. Anamika Pathak former curator of Decorative Arts at National Museum, Delhi. The CEO of The Nabha Foundation Mrs. Shubhra Singh, for extending artisan support, Mrs. Niharika Micheal, Mrs Namrata, Mrs. Madhu, Mrs. Lakhwinder Kaur and the entire artisan team from TNF for being a part of my research.

I would further like to thank Mr. Harinder Singh and Mrs. Kirandeep Kaur from 1469 workshop allowed me to be part of Mela Phulkari 'V', it was indeed an enriching experience. The exhibition helped me to connect with field experts and enthusiasts. I would also love to pay my gratitude to Mrs. Lavina Baldota, for selecting my art piece to be displayed at the Sutra Santati Exhibition at The National Museum- Delhi, Melbourne Museum and National Gallery of Modern Art- Mumbai. I would like to thank Designer Gaurang Shah, for providing me with natural dyed silk floss for the wall art pieces.

I would like to extend my gratitude to Mrs. Usha Rayalu, Chairperson of Crafts Council of Telangana, Mrs. Anuradha Bishnoi-Vice Chairperson of CCT, Mrs. Meena Appender-Vice Secretary CCT, Mrs. Hemlata Khemkha-Exe Committee CCT for awarding my research art piece with 'Kalanjali Sanmaan Award 2023' at 'National Level' and for providing me space to display my research work at CCT Spaces, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad.

Further I would like to thank my boss Tarun Tahiliani for extending support to avail the sabbatical off work to finish writing of the research thesis and my entire office staff to support me for the same. I would like to thank Sonu Sehgal and my TT-Team for always being supportive.

I would like to thank Ms. Heena and Mr. Anwar Hussain to help me with editing the Museum Monograph.

I would also like to thank my friends and specially Garvita Sharma for always being around to guide, help and for providing constant motivation.

Most importantly I would like to sincerely thank my parents and sister, my parents-in-law and my husband for endlessly being patient with me and extremely supportive throughout my study. I have been able to achieve every small goal of my research only because I have my family and my mains with me throughout.

Special thanks to my husband for patiently accompanying me to all the out station field visits, taking me around the locale of research endless times, for being my mental and physical support system 24/7.

Above all I would like to thank The Almighty for bestowing all his love and care for keeping, granting me health and wisdom to stay focused and determined and continuously empowering me to keep moving forward.

Ms. Gurvinder Kaur Gunde