
Acknowledgement

In the labyrinthine corridors of academia, the pursuit of knowledge can often feel like an arduous journey fraught with challenges. Yet, as I stand on the threshold of completion, I am reminded that no achievement is a solitary endeavor. I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to extend my deepest gratitude to all those who have been instrumental in the realization of this thesis.

First and foremost, I offer my profound gratitude to the Almighty God, the unseen hand that has guided me through the ebbs and flows of this academic odyssey. It is through His divine grace that I have found the strength, determination, and resilience to navigate the intricate maze of research and scholarship.

I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to my esteemed supervisor, the lighthouse of my academic voyage, **Prof. C. N. Murthy**. His wisdom, expertise, and unwavering support have been the true north that has guided me through the uncharted waters of my thesis. His mentorship not only nurtured my scientific acumen, but also shaped my character. In him, I have found not just a guide but also a true mentor.

I deeply express my gratitude to **Head of Department, Department of Applied Chemistry, Faculty of Technology and Engineering, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda** for his support and encouragement during my research work. The ripples of gratitude extend to the entire Faculty, **Prof. P. T. Deota, Prof. R. C. Tandel, Dr. C. K. Modi, Dr. Sanjeev Kumar, Dr. Rakesh Sharma, Dr. Vaishali Suthar, Dr. Ran Bahadur, Dr. Sandhya Dixit, Dr. Pankaj Sharma**, of the Department of Applied Chemistry, whose collective wisdom and encouragement have been the foundation of my academic journey. Their dedication to nurturing young minds and their commitment to

the pursuit of knowledge have been a constant source of inspiration. And also, the all-non-teaching staff for their support during my research journey.

In the scientific realm, the pursuit of truth and understanding often requires collaboration and shared resources. I extend my sincere appreciation to **Dr. V. K. Aswal** and **Dr. Sugam Kumar** for their invaluable contributions to the Small-Angle Neutron Scattering (SANS) data, a critical component of this research. The doors of **IIT Bombay** and **IIT Gandhinagar**, which opened to facilitate Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM) analysis, have been a testament to the spirit of academic cooperation and generosity.

The quest for knowledge has taken me on a journey that has transcended geographical boundaries. The state-of-the-art facilities of **IIT Roorkee** have been a pillar of support for X-ray Photoelectron Spectroscopy (XPS) and Atomic Force Microscopy (AFM) analysis. The gratitude extends to the institution that is much more than bricks and mortar; it is a sanctuary for learning and scientific exploration.

M/s Raychem RPG's contribution to the field of contact angle measurement has been an essential building block in the construction of this thesis. Their dedication to scientific precision is invaluable. In the realm of zeta potential measurements, I am grateful to **Prof. Usha Arvind**, whose expertise and guidance were invaluable. Her insights have illuminated this path for a deeper understanding.

Research is not merely a solitary endeavor; it is a collective voyage, and I am fortunate to have shared this journey with an extraordinary group of colleagues. To **Bhavita Mistry**, my ever-supportive and steadfast friend, I extend my heartfelt thanks for standing by me through the highs and lows of this academic endeavor. To my senior colleagues **Dr. Nikita Tiwari** and **Dr. Pavan Karkare**, I owe a debt of gratitude for their mentorship and camaraderie. They have been

torchbearers lighting the way through the complex terrain of research.

This thesis is not a solitary creation; it is the result of collaborative effort. I would be remiss not acknowledging the invaluable contributions of my research colleagues, who have shared the trenches and peaks of this journey. Nidhi Prajapati, Dixita Prajapati, Srujal Sonera, Sagar Bairwa, Vikas Ganvit, Saurav Patel, Brijesh Patel, Hemil Patel, Smita Katariya, Megha Rathwa, Meet Thakkar, Vishwajit Chavda, Darshna Hirapara, Urvi Lad, Komal Trivedi, Pratik Lakhani, Bharat Maru have been the comrades in this academic adventure. Each of them has brought their unique strengths, perspectives, and energies to the table, making this collective pursuit of knowledge memorable. I would like to thank the dissertation students Kaushik Hadiyal, Varan Patel, Khushbu Jadhav for their help in the research laboratory.

In academia, financial support is often the lifeblood fueling research. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to M/s Permionics Pvt. Ltd. and SHODH-Scheme from the Government of Gujarat for their invaluable financial support. Their belief in the value of research and innovation has been the driving force behind this endeavor.

However, this journey was not limited to the academic realm; it transcended those confines and touched on the personal sphere. In this context, my gratitude extends to my beloved parents and grandparents, who have been the unwavering force behind my pursuit of knowledge. Their encouragement and belief in their abilities have been a constant source of strength.

I owe special thanks to my younger brother for being a constant companion throughout the ebbs and flows of this journey. My unspoken support and quiet understanding have been my refuge.

Lastly, I am indebted to my close friends, **Susmita, Binal, Charmie, and Rutika**, whose unwavering emotional and mental support have been the glue that held me together during the most challenging times. They were not just friends; they were my pillar of emotional strength.

In conclusion, this thesis is a testament to the power of collaboration, support, and shared pursuit of knowledge. I am immensely grateful to all individuals and institutions mentioned for their invaluable contributions. This journey has been a collective effort, and your presence has been the fuel that propelled it forward. Thank you for being an integral part of this academic field.