

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The past five years of my Ph.D. Journey have been deeply fulfilling endeavour, providing me with profound learning experiences. Along this path, I encountered numerous highlights and challenges, yet collective contributions of those around me have been instrumental in guiding me through it all.

First and foremost, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to my Ph.D. Guide, Dr. Leena Mehta Madam, whose unwavering support has been a constant source of strength. She has been my guiding light, offering wisdom that greatly contributed to my learning curve and developed me into a better professional I am today. Her invaluable contributions to my professional and personal growth are immeasurable. I am indebted to her for accepting me as her Ph.D. Student and encouraging me to work on this topic. I will never forget her words of wisdom that ‘life comes before everything else’. I am luckiest to have her as my Ph.D. Guide.

I am also indebted to my alma maters, the Faculty of Social Work, and the Faculty of Commerce at the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, as well as Vidya Vihar School, and all the teachers who have contributed to my academic pursuits from childhood to doctoral level.

My gratitude extends to the Dean, Head of the Department, and Ph.D. Coordinator at the Faculty of Social Work, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, for facilitating the procedural aspects with respect to Ph.D. requirements. I am also thankful to the University Grants Commission for granting me the Junior Research Fellowship, facilitating my academic pursuit.

The deep sense of gratitude goes to my respondents- Doctors, patients, and their caregiver, who provided their valuable inputs despite all the adversities that they were facing at the time of data collection. I am also grateful to the experts from medical, legal, and social work field who have patiently reviewed the interview schedules and provided their inputs for making it more enriching.

To my parents and grandparents, whose unwavering love and encouragement have been my motivation, I owe a debt of gratitude beyond words. Their pride in my accomplishments have constantly driven me to work hard and put in sincere efforts in my endeavours.

My deepest thanks go to my beloved husband, Zubin, who believed in my abilities more than I believed in myself. Without his companionship, encouragement, and unwavering faith, I don't

think I would have reached so far. He has been my rock-solid support in fulfilling all my dreams.

I am indebted to my family members especially my brother, sister-in-law and my uncle who are my go-to persons whenever I need. My gratitude extends to my in-laws and extended family members for their constant belief and encouragement at every stage of my personal and professional life.

I sincerely thank my Ph.D. Colleagues- Jigna, Sagar, and Adnan. Having completed majority of the milestones of doctoral research together, they have been my strong support and source of encouragement. I am indebted to my dear friend Pallavi for her constant motivation throughout this journey. I am thankful to all my friends of Buddies Group who has helped me rejuvenate and have been my stress busters.

Lastly, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to all those who have contributed, directly or indirectly to my academic journey and personal growth. The support and encouragement have been invaluable, and I am truly grateful for their presence in my life.

Thank you all for being part of this remarkable journey.

-Heli Shukla Karvat