

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I owe my sincere thanks to Dr. Bharati A. Patwardhan, my guide, who has been a source of inspiration. Her scholarly advice, constant encouragement, patience, perseverance and perfection during the entire process of work have been instrumental in enabling me realize this research endeavour.

I wish to express my gratitude to Dr. Shobha Udipi, Director, Department of PGSR in Home Science, S.N.D.T. Women's University and Dr. Ravikala Kamath (former Director) for their cooperation during the period of this study.

I am grateful to the library staff of S.N.D.T. Women's University, Pune and Mumbai, M.S.University, Baroda for making all the reading materials available for my reference.

The statisticians, Mrs. Keerti Marathe and Mrs. Uma Mahajan helped me with the precise data entry and computer analysis of the raw data. I extend my sincere thanks to them.

I am thankful to all the working women from various professions for taking part in the study with patience and whole heartedness. Without their cooperation this study would not have been possible.

I would like to thank my present and former colleagues from the different departments of S.N.D.T. College of Home Science, Pune. I am indebted to Dr. Gita Sundaresh for giving expert advice and valuable suggestions in the research process. Thanks are due to Mrs. Vinata Kulkarni for helping me with the Marathi translations.

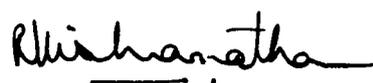
I also take this opportunity to acknowledge the debt of a number of friends without whose help the thesis would not have seen completion. Dr. Jennifer Alexander has always been source of inspiration and guidance. Mrs. Vidya

Ghugri, Mrs. Bina Joshi and Mrs. Sushma Sathye extended their support for data collection.

My father Shri. V.K. Sharma and father-in-law Shri. K.V. Venkiteswaran showed faith in my capacity to undertake the research and encouraged me to do so. My mother, brother and sisters were always with me when I needed them. A special 'thank you' to my sister Rashmi, niece Anumeha and the rest of her family for always welcoming me and during my innumerable trips to Mumbai during the course of the research study. Special thanks are also due to my mother-in-law, brother-in-law and sister-in-law for their support during my numerous absences from home due to my trips to Mumbai.

My family members have played a significant role in the realization of my goal with their constant encouragement, moral support, patience, understanding and constant help. My daughter Kritika has been a source of optimism and kept me going when, like all researchers, I went through periods of despondency. My son Anant patiently provided all technical assistance and kept track of the thesis and data on the computer. My husband Vishwanathan's whole hearted enthusiasm, constructive criticism and practical guidance have gone a long way in converting my goal into reality.

I am deeply appreciative of the blessings of the Almighty and unconditional support of all my family members in this venture.


Rachna Vishwanathan