Acknowledgement

Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it. (William Arthur Ward, 2010)

Now the time has come when I want to express my gratitude for a number of people who stood by me all throughout my Ph.D. study. This thesis is the end of my journey in completing my Doctor of Philosophy.

First and foremost, I am deeply grateful and indebted to my guru ..my guide, Dr. Vandana Talegaonkar for shaping and nurturing my scholarly growth with her enduring interest, concern, enthusiasm, immense knowledge and good humour. Her guidance, insight and encouragement helped me all throughout writing of thesis. Thank you Ma'am.

I would like to express my gratitude to Dr. P.V. Xavier (Head of School of Liberal Studies and Education), Dr. Archana Tomar (Assistant Professor, Navrachana University) and all faculty members of School Liberal Studies and Education for their suggestions.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Prof. Sujata Srivastava, Faculty of education and psychology, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara and Dr. Rashmi Desai, Principal Dr Hedgewar Hindi Medium School, in-charge Education inspector of one, NPS Vadodara. RTE Center officer, west zone, MSB Vadodara, for their insightful comments and suggestions.

I convey my sincere thanks to Dr. Mandira Sikdar, Coordinator of Ph.D. Programme, Navrachana University for her prompt assistance at every stage of administrative matters.

I would like to offer special thanks to my friend Dr. Kripali Jadega for her unwavering support and guidance during the completion of my study. To me she acted as my co-guide.

Thanks Kripali. I would like to express my sincere thanks all the scholars of Navrachana University.

I would like to thank my family member's especially my little son, Kanishk and daughter, Paridhi for their encouragement and adjustment with the demanding situation. I would like to express my thankfulness to my husband, Mr Anilsingh Chauhan who has been extremely supportive toward me for making this long journey a success. He was always with me during happy and hard days of study and motivate me to move forward. I wish to thank my in-laws for their support.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the District Education Office, Vadodara, all the beneficiaries of RTE Act, their parents, schools, Principals, teachers and non- RTE students for their support during study.

My regards and blessings to all of those who supported me directly or indirectly during the completion of the thesis.

Last but not the least I wish to thank Almighty God for his showers of blessing throughout my research work and complete this thesis.

Ms. Poonam A. Chauhan