

## **Acknowledgement**

It is indeed a great pleasure to record my sincerest thanks and gratitude to all those who have extended their hands of co-operations and contributed towards the preparation of the thesis.

Particularly, I am deeply indebted to my supervisor Professor Dr. Hillol Kumar Chokrabarti (Retired), Emeritus Fellow (U.G.C), Department of Economics of University of North Bengal for his constant encouragement and strategic help from the very beginning of the research work and enriched the research work by providing me with valuable books, periodicals and reports. It is however, not possible to express my gratitude to my supervisor in a few words. I am also grateful to Prof. (Mrs.) Bhaswati Chakrabarti for allowing my supervisor to spare his time to supervise my thesis. Without her co-operation the thesis could not have been completed. I would also like to extend my thanks to my teachers Dr. Kanak Kanti Bagchi (Professor) and Dr. Anil Bhumali (Professor), Department of Economics, University of North Bengal for their valuable suggestions. They have enriched my knowledge by supplying me with valuable books, periodicals and reports.

I am also grateful to the other faculty members of the Department of Economics, University of North Bengal for their valuable suggestions and encouragement. I also thank the office staff and Research Scholars of the Department of Economics for their kind cooperation and help.

My thanks are also due to the library staff of University of North Bengal, National Library, Kolkata and National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi for my easy access to library books and journals.

I also like to express my valuable gratitude to the Scholars whose books and articles and dissertations I have consulted.

Finally, I take the opportunity to acknowledge my indebtedness to my father Sri Rabindra Chandra Dev and other relatives who constantly encouraged me to carry out this research work. Last but not least, I would like place on record my heart felt gratitude to my wife Smt. Tanima Dev for providing me emotional support, untiring help and constant inspiration during the last few years. Without her assistance and silent sacrifice, this work would not have been completed successfully within the scheduled time.

Date: 06.06.2009

**Pijush Kanti Dev**  
Lecturer, Department of Economics  
Dr. B. R. Ambedkar College  
Betai, Nadia (West Bengal)