

## A C K N O W L E D G E M E N T S

The study is made for the Ph.D. degree under the University of North Bengal and is based on detailed field work in the remote part of the then district of West Dinajpur (now South Dinajpur) among some backward communities and tribes of West Bengal. Among these backward communities a few are from lower caste-Hindus which have no traditional background of rigorous caste rites, rituals and social usages in identity as such we have studied. The detailed field work for the study has been conducted in companion with two of my friends namely, Ismail Hossain Mondal, M.A. in Economics, N.B.U. and Dinabandhu Sarkar. They actively participated with me in my field work. Their hospitality and active participation helped me most completing my survey work quite smoothly. I am very much grateful to them for their assistance and cooperation at the first stage of my study.

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