

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

I would express my deep sense of gratitude and indebtedness to my Supervisor Prof. P. C. Sarkar who has spared his invaluable time in assisting me to complete this thesis. This work would have been incomplete without his inspiration and guidance at every stage.

I am also thankful to Dr. Mohan Prasad Lakhay of Tribhuvan University, (Thakur Ram Campus, Birgunj) for the essential help he was instrumental in providing for this study. I must mention the debt I owe to my husband Mr. Parth Kumar Chakraborty for the trouble he took, with great patience and sympathy to be at my side, while I did the field work in the difficult and rather inaccessible terrains of the mountain Kingdom of Nepal. The relatives and friends who encouraged and helped me must also be mentioned in acknowledgement.

My thanks are also due to the village pradhans, village household and the cooperative line agencies for the services they rendered.

Bisheswari Shaha
(Bisheswari Shaha.)