

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am very much indebted and pleasure in expressing heartfelt thanks to my Supervisor, Prof. R. K. Bhadra, Department of Sociology, University of North Bengal for giving me an opportunity to work under him, for his thoughtful remarks and academic comments. Without his encouragement, cooperation and guidance throughout the study enabled me to accomplish this thesis. I take this opportunity to thanks Dr. Mita Bhadra for giving the valuable suggestion throughout the thesis writing. I am also thankful to Prof. R. R. Regmi, Central Department of Sociology / Anthropology, who always inspire me for Ph.D. I express my thanks to Mr. Bhola Dhakal, Trihuvan University who extend all possible help whenever required.

I am grateful to the respondents of Lahan Municipality, Sirha District for sharing their experience on Caste-based discrimination and Chamars Movement. Without their time and cooperation, this study wouldn't have been completed.

I would like to thank GOs, NGOs, Dalit and non-Dalit Leader, Social Activists, Human Right Activists, Saraswati Community Development Forum and Lahan Municipality for their cooperation throughout the fieldwork.

My special thank to my wife Mrs. Bindu Pokharel, My daughter Richa Pokharel and son Rishav Pokharel who helped me in different ways throughout the study.

Dr. Bed Raj Acharya persuasion strengthen my desire for Ph.D. work and all round support deserves special thanks.

I greatly appreciate to my friends Dr. Bishnu Supkota, Reshraj Adhikari, Bishnu Hari Koirala, Keshab Bhakta Sapkota, Shashi Pandit, Pradeep Parajuli, Bishnu Dahal, Ram Pokharel, Sanjay Singh, Krishna Acharya, Jagat Parajuli, Baldeo Mahato, Ghanshyam Dawadi, Chandra Subedi and Suman Panthi, for providing much needed support and cooperation from the beginning to the end of the study. I am thankful to Mr. Manojit Nath for typing the manuscript on time.

I am very much indebted to officials of North Bengal University for their official support.

Chinta Mani Pokharel