

Acknowledgements

I owe immense gratitude to my teacher as well as my supervisor Professor as well as Director Dr. Maitreyee Choudhury, Centre for Himalayan Studies, University of North Bengal. Without her unstinted support, effortless inspiration, constant guidance and dedication from the initial stage of the work till the compilation, this thesis would have not been completed by me in stipulated time.

I am greatly indebted to my esteemed teachers at the Centre for Himalayan Studies, University of North Bengal for their support and encouragement.

My special thanks to the Assistant Professors of Namchi Government College, Sikkim for their constant support and help, namely Dr. Robin Sharma for literary support, Dr. C.P. Khatiwada for technical support and Mr. Deepak Tiwari for his encouragement.

I sincerely thank Dr. Parsuram Poudyal, Principal, Namchi Government College and Assistant Professors Mr. Saran Chettri, Mr. Chetraj Sharma, Mr. Uttam Kumar Udpadhaya, Dr. Anil B. Sharma, Mr. Narendra Kharel, Mr. Dilliram Sharma, Mr. Navin Pandey, Dr. Tshewang Bhutia, Mr. Mingma O. Lepcha, Dr. Surjapada Paul and Dr. Ashok G.V. for providing constant help and support according to my need.

I would like to thank Mrs. Parvati Sharma (Statistical Inspector), Mrs. Sangita Kharel (Deputy Director), Mr. Kamal Gurung (VLW) and Mr. Narayan Dhakal (Account Officer) for furnishing statistical update.

I would like to thank Department of Agriculture and Horticulture as well as Bureau of Economics and Statistics (DESME), Government of Sikkim, for their continuous support and useful information.

I am grateful to my fraternity, Department of Geography, Namchi Government College, for helping me out during different phases of this work.

My sincere thanks go to the staff of Documentation Cell, Centre for Himalayan Studies and Central Library, University of North Bengal and special thanks go to Mr. Dilliram Chettri, for providing me ideas about GIS maps.

I am also thankful to the Panchayat members of the respective villages for their kind co-operation during field survey. Moreover, I express thanks to the respondents of the villages for their support and positive response.

Lastly, my sincere thanks go to my Father, Mother, Wife, Son and Sister as well as Brother-in-law and family members. They not only encouraged me but also morally supported to complete my thesis.


20.06.2018

Tanka Prasad Dhungel