

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The completion of the present work brings to an end my long and arduous journey. It is quite long as various issues slowed down my pace of work. Out of these one is remoteness of my workplace. For a couple of years I worked in a college which was quite far away from my home and I had to commute everyday spending considerable time on my way. On account of this I could not give enough time for my research work. Second, during this span I was blessed with motherhood. Owing to this I had to remain away from regular research work for considerable time as I remained busy with my mothering role. Then my joining to a new college again took its toll; I needed some time to acclimatize myself in this new environment.

Though initially I thought the topic of my research work will not be so tough, as it seems a bit common, with passage of time and progress of work my expectation was falsified. Gradually I started to realize the vastness of issue and its spread in different fields and other ramifications. Writings and rewritings when checked by my supervisor brought many more questions and asked me to give more clarifications on a number of points. At one point I found that the work is becoming endless and disappointment set in my mind. Then I was told to delimit the work as it is not possible to cover the entire gamut of the issue in one work. This advice finally showed me a ray of hope and I could figure out how to wrap up the work.

A research work needs help from many quarters. It is an opportune moment to record and appreciate my sense of gratitude to them who came to my help in various ways during this work. First I would like to express my profound gratitude to my supervisor, Prof. Jyotish Ch. Basak, of the Dept. of Philosophy, University of North Bengal, for his valuable and judicious guidance throughout the tenure of my Ph. D. research work. At times when my spirit of work flagged for various reasons, he unflinchingly helped to overcome that. His consoling

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(Nabanita Bhowal)