

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

I would like to express my sincere and respectful gratitude to Dr. Manas Dasgupta, Professor of Economics, University of North Bengal for his careful guidance, for offering valuable suggestions and constant encouragement in uncounted discussions. This research work could not have taken its present form without his untiring efforts to make it so.

I am also deeply indebted to Professor Anartya Sen, Professor of Economics, Oxford University who provided the initial impetus to pursue the central theme of this work.

I am thankful to the members of the teaching staff of the Department of Economics of North Bengal University for their kind help which they offered whenever it was necessary.

I am happy to place on record my deep gratitude to Dr. Biswanath Banerjee, Professor of Geography, University of Calcutta, Prof. Vinayanti Bhattacharyya, Professor of Geography, North Bengal University, Prof. Chitra Datta, Head of the Department of English, Loreto College, Darjeeling, Dr. Aniya Dasgupta, eminent Sociologist, Dr. Vaidyanath Chakraborty of St. Joseph's College, Darjeeling, Prof. Pran Chand Singh of Loreto College and Prof. Bijon Ghosh, Head of the Deptt. of Geography, Siliguri College for their valuable suggestions and help during the entire period of my research work.

I am also thankful to the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Dr. D. B. Dutta and the Registrar, Dr. B. K. Bhaipal of North Bengal University.

for their co-operation in carrying out this research. I am also indebted to Rev. Mother Mission, the Principal of Loreto College where I work not only for her constant inspiring encouragement but also for providing me with all kinds of administrative help.

I will be failing in my duties if I do not mention the names of Dr. Niladri Chakrabarti, Reader of Economics of North Bengal University and Dr. D. P. Sanyal, Head of the Department of Commerce, North Bengal University for extending their help on various occasions - both academic and non-academic.

This work is based on various data collected at different times from different places. Those who helped me in collecting these data deserve my profuse thanks. I owe much to Mr. Sushil Guha, Branch Manager, C.B.I., Jalpaiguri, Mr. Joti Roy, Manager, Central Co-operative Land Development Bank, Darjeeling, Mr. Gour Kishorjee, D.C.P., D.L.D., Darjeeling, Mr. Dilip Khan, Cartographer, Central Ground Water Board, Calcutta, Mr. Bijoy Dasgupta, Associate Professor of Computer Engineer^{ing}, Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta and Mr. Sarish Talwar, A.R.C.S., Darjeeling for their helping attitude in providing various facts and informations related to Research Problem.

I express my gratitude to the different organisations, institutions, individuals and librarians of Loreto College and North Bengal University who have helped in various fields for completing the research work.

I am thankful to Mr. Jitendra Saini for not only performing a professional job in typing this thesis, but for his concern, well beyond a professional one, for finishing this in time. I am also indebted to my elder brother, Lt. Col. P. K. Chakraborti, M.B. for the tedious job of proof-reading the manuscripts with sincere and smiling face.

I should thank my wife, Dr. Sunita Chakraborti, Lecturer in Geography, Loreto College, Barjoelling for preparing some of the important maps which are incorporated in this thesis. A list of what she has done besides, is so voluminous that I pass it over in silence, but not in ignorance.

Those who had been neglected most during the period of this work are my very young children - Anishan and Jayeta. Without their co-operation, patience and tolerance I could not have completed this work.

I feel that I could not have finished this work without the invisible help and blessings from my parents.