

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In presenting the thesis in its present form, I have bound myself in gratitude to a good number of individuals and institutions. I sincerely thank all of them who have, directly or indirectly, helped me in the collection of data and in the preparation of the thesis in its present form.

I am specially grateful to :

Dr. N. C. Choudhury, Professor of Sociology and Social Anthropology, University of North Bengal, for his careful supervision, inspiration and, above all, his broadmindedness (even when I had strong differences with him and could not accept many of his ~~many~~ suggestions, I did never find him angry. He, rather, took time to ponder over my points of view and mostly in the long run accepted me with a broad smile. While working with him, I constantly felt encouraged to be very much independent in thinking and expression. The use of 'I' instead of 'We' in the thesis was insisted upon by him) as a result of which, I enjoyed much freedom to think and act, subject, of course, to logical coherence and authenticity, while working with him as a UGC Teacher Fellow.

University Grants Commission, New Delhi, for its offer of Teacher Fellowship to me to work for Ph. D. In absence of the Fellowship

backed by financial support to facilitate the conduct of research,
it could not be possible to prepare and present the thesis in a short
span of four years.

Mr. B. K. Bajpaie, Registrar, University of North Bengal, for
his affectionate co-operation whenever I approached him for this or
that in connection with the research; and last of all,

Mrs Siuli Ghose, for her immense indirect help at all stages
of the work.

Subhas Chandra Ghose
(Subhas Chandra Ghose)