

PREFACE

India has a large standing army. Their role in providing security and maintaining country's sovereignty needs no special mention. On the question of security, in addition to external threat, now there is a greater threat to our human population in general and to the army population in particular from a pandemic disease called AIDS. As it is a direct threat to the health of the people, it may also cause disaster by affecting Army Organization of our country. That was a prime concern in undertaking the present research.

At the outset, I must convey my sincere gratitude and regards to my research supervisor Dr Rajat Subra Mukhopadhyay, professor, Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology, North Bengal University. I am equally thankful to Dr Amitabha Basu, former Professor of Anthropology, Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta, Lt Col G P I Singh, Army Medical Corps, Indian Army and Dr Subrata Roy of ISI, Calcutta.

Brigadier (now Major General) G S Negi of Gorkha Rifles, Indian Army, was kind enough to accord me necessary permission to carry out this work among Army personnel of a particular contingent. The commanding officer of 33 corps Signal Regiment kindly allowed me to conduct my survey in the unit under his command. I am extremely obliged to both of them.

I am indebted to the library authorities of British Council, Calcutta, the authorities of WHO, Geneva and New Delhi, the TATA Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. They helped me by furnishing information and literature as and when the same were required.

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At last, I should not forget to express my thanks to my daughter Miss Rajroopa Banerjee and my wife Smt Mridula Banerjee. They actively participated at the stage of data analysis and encouraged me to complete my research relieving me from many family chores.

I shall feel highly rewarded if my humble effort is found useful as a contribution to the field of development Sociology and the findings embodied get some policy relevance in the organizational spheres of Indian Army.

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Signature