

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The age old Indian custom of saluting one's guru before commencement of any work is to be followed by me. Moreover I would like to add that at a point of time when completion of this work was seemingly an insurmountable task; my Supervisor Dr R. Sahu, Professor, Centre for Himalayan Studies, University of North Bengal, was there to support me not like a rock but like an ocean. I sincerely owe a lot to him.

Prof. Manas Dasgupta, Prof. R. N. Bhattacharya & Prof B. P. Misra spend their valuable times for me. Their support and suggestions were priceless. I thank Mr. Sonam W. Bhutia A.D.M. Darjeeling, Mr. Kaushik Choudhury D.I.O, N.I.C., Darjeeling^{who} extended ~~his~~ ^{their} invaluable help and support. I would also like to thank Mr. Anindya N. Chowdhury D.S.W., Deptt. Of Women & Child Development; Government of West Bengal; Mr. B. Roy, D.P.O., I.C.D.S., Darjeeling; for their uninterrupted support and encouragement. My father remained all the time with me like the guiding ray of hope in absence of my ever loving mother who left us too early. My late Mother –in – law, though crippled in bed remained a spontaneous source of encouragement for me. Lastly, I convey my gratitude to my better half

for shouldering the lion's share of nurturing my only autistic son Aakash, my source of eternal bliss. Without her support and love this work would have remained incomplete. Dr. Joydeep Sengupta of Department of Mathematics, University of North Bengal, extended his co-operating hands all the time to encourage me.

(Debasish Biswas)