

Acknowledgement

The author pays his sincere and deepest gratitude to Dr. Ajit Kumar Ray, Professor, Department of Commerce, University of North Bengal, Darjeeling, West Bengal, India for supervising this work. Without his support and help this could have been impossible. His invaluable guidance, perseverance and encouragement in every step have made this study complete in every respect. His motivation has helped the author to undertake this research work with utmost sincerity.

He is also very thankful to all the researchers and academicians in this field around the world with whom he discussed various aspects of his problem through internet as well as through face to face discussion. He is indebted to Prof. Amilcar Serrao, Management Department, Evora University, Portugal, Prof. Mohsen Rostamy-malkhalifeh, Department of Mathematics, Islamic Azad University, Iran, Prof. Luka Neralic, Department of Mathematics, Croatia, Prof. Ali Emrouznejad, Aston Business School, Aston University, U.K. for their valuable suggestions.

He also conveys his sincere thanks to those who drew his attention to many recent works in this area. People who deserve special mention are Mr. Subir Sen, Centre for Economic Studies and Policy, Bangalore, Prof. Zheng Yi, Shanghai Ocean University, China, Mohammad Reza Alirezaee, Mathematics Faculty, Iran University of Science and Technology, Iran, Mr. Theodor Stewart, Statistical Sciences, University of Cape Town, South Africa, Prof. Esteve Codina, Statistics and Operational Research, UPC, Spain, Prof. Dong-Ling Xu, Manchester Business School, The University of Manchester, U.K., Prof. Rui Marques, Department of Civil Engineering and Architecture, Technical University of Lisbon, Portugal, Mr. Heinz Ahn, Braunschweig, Germany, and Ms. Mahta Yekkalam, Department Of Mathematics, Islamic Azad University, Tehran, for their observations and extension of help & co-operation.

The author likes to thank the organizing committee of EURO-2009 at Bonn, Germany, for inviting him to present a paper titled **“Analyzing the Performance of Indian Maritime States using DEA”** in 23rd European Conference on Operations Research in July, 2009 and for giving him the opportunity to interact with the learned intellectuals and scholars around the world. The author is also indebted to the organizing committee of IFORS-2008 at Sandton, South Africa, for inviting him to presents a paper titled **“Efficiency of Indian Marine Fishery Using DEA”** at the triennial conference of International Federation of Operations Research Society in July, 2008 and for providing him a chance to exchange views with researchers and academicians from every corner of the world.

The author considers himself very fortunate to have discussions and association with many teachers of different faculties of the University of North Bengal as a constant source of inspiration. Here he takes this opportunity to convey his appreciation to the faculty members of the Commerce Department, University of North Bengal, particularly to Dr. M.K. Roy, Dr. H. Roy and Dr. P. R. sengupta. He has been immensely benefited by the continuous help and valuable suggestions of Dr. (Mrs.) S. Biswas, Department of Sociology and Dr. P.K Mandal, Department of Physics of University of North Bengal.

The author likes to mention specially the name of Mr. Tamas Ranjan Majumder of Department of Economics, University of North Bengal and expresses his gratitude for helping him in data collection and unconditional extension of all kinds of collaboration.

He is very thankful to all the faculty and staff members of his previous employer Siliguri Institute of Technology for their assistance and cooperation.

He is very appreciative of all the faculty and staff members of his current employer Swami Vivekananda Institute of Management and Computer Science for their assistance and cooperation.

He is very obliged to Mr. Alope Kumar Ghosh, then faculty of Siliguri Institute of Technology, now Principal, Future College of Engineering and Management for showing a new horizon in the application of DEA.

And last but not the least he is indebted to his family and well wishers, particularly his father Dr. Narendra Chandra Ghosh, his in-laws, Mr. Shyamal Kanti Ghosh & Mrs. Amita Ghosh and his wife Aditi Ghosh for their constant support and encouragement to complete the thesis. He pays his deepest gratitude to his wife for her sacrifice and patience and for her bountiful encouragement and emotional sustenance throughout the tenure of this study.

December, 2010


15/12/2010
(NEELANGSHU GHOSH)