

Acknowledgement

I am greatly indebted to Dr. Anil Bhuijali, Professor, Department of Economics, North Bengal University under whose Supervision the study was done. It was a privilege and a great advantage to have free access to the wealth of his wisdom and experience. I profusely thank to my honourable teachers Prof. H.K. Chakraborti, Prof. J.C. Debnath, Prof. C.K. Mokhopadhyay, Prof. Jeta Sankrityayana, Prof. K.K. Bagchi, Dr. S. Roy Mukherjee, Mrs. S. Ray Dutta, Mr. T. R. Mazumder and Gobinda Da and Karan for their constant inspiration and necessary help. I am indeed grateful to them. I also express my heartfelt thanks to Mr. Sanjib Sarkar. I would also like to thank to all the staff and members of Central Library, North Bengal University and Departmental Seminar Library, N.B.U. for their cooperation and necessary help.

I would also like to express my deepest regard to Papri Bhuijali for her warm hospitality. My special thanks also go to Master Arumoy Bhuijali.

I am also thankful to my friends and especially to Biplab and Tarun and research scholars for creating a good and friendly atmosphere which in turn helped me in finishing this thesis properly. They always lend me their helping hands whenever required.

I would also like to thank Mr. Raju Mahato for his sincere computerization work, which has helped me to complete the work within the stipulated time frame.

Finally, I must acknowledge my gratitude to my mother Late Niyati Laha, grand mother Late Urmila Laha, Father Sri Satyapriya Laha, my wife Sonali and my lovely son little Master Souhardya for their increasing encouragement throughout the course of the study.

Date...19.07.2007

Sidhartha Sankar Laha

SIDHARTHA SANKAR LAHA