

Acknowledgement

To speak the truth, I did not have any contemplation for doing research work on Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar. In the year of 1989, the Government of India took initiative to commemorate Ambedkar on the occasion of his Birth Centenary. Then, as the secretary of a Social Organisation at Malda, I organised a Seminar on the ideas and activities of Ambedkar. Dr. Sailen Debnath was one of the speakers who attended the Seminar; and on that occasion he inspired me to work on the topic.

I would like to express my deepest sense of gratitude to Dr. Sailen Debnath, under whose supervision this dissertation has taken the present form. From the very inception of the work and all through my hazardous thinking on the topic, he kindled in me a keen interest and urge for the study in the socio-religious movements organised by Ambedkar. Moreover, his constant supervision and co-operation were the only source of inspiration for me to bring this work into its present shape.

I am indebted much to Dr. Jasobanta Kar, Professor of History, North Bengal University, who extended his sympathy for being joint supervisor to overcome some technical difficulties for joining the Fellowship under the IXth plan of the University Grants Commission.

I am lucky enough to have immense help from Dr. Oneil Biswas, a man of 87 years of age and of rare qualities of various disciplines. For long I used to work in his personal library having a lot of books, journals and rare books in many subjects managed by Dr. Biswas himself. I feel the deepest sense of gratitude to Dr. Oneil Biswas for his kind help and co-operation along the course of the work.

I would gratefully acknowledge the assistance of the University Grants Commission for offering me a Fellowship to continue my study. I also acknowledge my debt to the Registrar and the Development officer of North Bengal University and their staffs for their timely co-operation for the purpose. I would like to express my deepest sense of gratitude to the Department of

History of North Bengal University as I received kind co-operation from the teaching and non-teaching staff of the Department. I am also grateful to the teaching and non-teaching staff of Samsi College for their co-operation.

To my family I am indebted in many ways. My wife Santwana motivated a lethargic researcher like me into action. Her efforts in preparing the bibliography helped me much. My little daughter, Pubali, who often used to sit on my study materials and exercise books with innocent playing mood to stop me as and when I began to write, has been a constant source of pleasant and refreshing distractions that helped me to bear with the tedium of research. I am very much thankful to appreciate my nephew Shuvam, whose prompt reading of the typed copy helped me to compare with the manuscript.

With great urge to complete the study, I have enjoyed working in many libraries and archives in Bengal, Maharashtra and New Delhi. These include the North Bengal University Library, the National Library, the Asiatic Society, West Bengal State Archives, the National Archives of India, Maharashtra State Archives, the Ramkrishna Mission Institute of Culture (Calcutta), the Central Research Library (Bombay), Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Memorial Research Centre, Rajgriha (Bombay). I wish to express my gratitude to the staff of all these institutions for their kind help and co-operation. I am very much thankful to Sri Aninda Bhattacharya and Sri Amal Sahoo, who devoted valuable time in typing my dissertation with utmost sincerity.

Above all, the responsibility for any kind of errors, misrepresentations and incompleteness in the dissertation will remain with me alone.

Indramohan Mandal
Selection Grade Lecturer,
Department of History,
Samsi College,
Malda