

Acknowledgements

First and foremost, I take this opportunity to express my deepest sense of gratitude to my Guide, Dr. Deepak Kumar Mandal, Associate Professor, Department of Geography and Applied Geography, University of North Bengal who with his in-depth supervision and guidance always helped me in turning my "dream" into reality. I have no word to thank him for all such co-operations, trouble-sharing etc. His co-operations will always be a remembrance for me forever and ever. I shall remain indebted to him for his soft and thoughtful encouragements without which I could not have completed my work. Moreover I pray his all mighty blessings forever and ever. I would like to take this opportunity to dedicate my work to my parents, Sri Jagabandhu Saha and Smt. Kamala Saha and my wife Mrs. Nupur Roy for all the sacrifices they have made in supporting me and motivating me through all the difficult times. At the same time, I also extend my gratitude to my mother-in-law and sister-in-law for their regular encouragements. I am equally grateful to Prof. Subir Sarkar, Professor, Department of Geography and Applied Geography, University of North Bengal for helping me to develop my subjective knowledge leading to my cognitive development and guiding me throughout to complete my work. It is really his encouragements, kind blessings, and supportiveness for which I am at the verge to submit my research work. I should also extend my thanks to Dr. Indira Lepcha (nee) Lama for her constant inspirations to enrich the level of the work and to turn it into a success. Grateful acknowledgements are also due, to the entire faculty members of Department of Geography and Applied Geography, University of North Bengal for their continuous inspirations and co-operations whenever I needed their help. I would also like to express my sincere thanks to Dr. S. K. Bhattacharya, Mr. Arindam Basak, Assistant Professors; Mr. Lakpa Tamang, Mr. Amit Jana, Research Scholars and Mr. Kalyan Barman for their resourcefulness and assistance during crucial phases of my work. I cannot efface the memories of effulgent helps from Sri. Tanuj Bhattacharya, Sri Mrinal Kanti Mandal, teachers in Physics; Sri Saikat Pramanik, and Sri Naba Biswas teachers in Chemistry; Sri N. Halder, Sri C. Mandal, teachers in mathematics and Sri H. Das, teacher in Bio Science for their help and academic co-operations to carry out my work. I would like to acknowledge my elder brothers Sri Debasish Saha and Sri Subhasish Saha and sister in laws who have always encouraged me to carry out my work. I want also to be thankful to my teacher Dr. A. Sengupta for the cognitive helps received time to time and want to acknowledge my teacher M. Hassan for helping me a lot during field work activities. I extend my thanks to Babul

Biswas and my brotherly Subroto, Guddu and Lipu for their precious technical and Physical co-operations. I am really thankful to my elder sister Pushpita Tokdar for her constant inspirations and support thereof and thanks also to be extended to my sister Mou and my student Debarshi for their graceful support and technical helps all through. I am seriously grateful to my friends Sanjoy, Kamal, Tanushree, Somnath, Tanmoy, Bipul, Tamal Da, Sanjoy Da, Prabir Da, Ranjan and others for their mental supportiveness. I want to be grateful to my brother Pronob and sister Sayantani for their help from time to time. I want to be thankful to my sister Tania for helping me in literature collection.

I would like to express my gratitude to all the non-teaching members of the Department of Geography and Applied Geography for constantly motivating me to complete my work. Special thanks are due to Office of the Irrigation and Waterways, West Bengal, DWRRO Office, District Malda; for supplying data for filling up the gaps in my field of study. I am also grateful to Dr. Parthasarathi Chakraborty, Former chief Scientist, DSI and Mr. Sanjay Nag, DSI, Kolkata and National Atlas and Thematic Map Organization, Kolkata for supplying study related informations.

I am equally indebted to the NBU Library staff for their constant help and Sri Biman Barman, Laboratory Assistant, Pedological Laboratory of Department of Geography and Applied Geography, N.B.U for helping me to carry out the mechanical analysis of soil samples from field time to time. My sincere thanks are also to be extended to the local people of Manikchak, Khaskol, Sakullapur, Panchanandapur, boat men and videographers who have assisted me during my field surveys. I am grateful to all concerns in terms of supplying me literatures and officials whom I visited to collect literatures and for providing me a new passage to work in this field. Last but not the least, I must acknowledge to all my friends and well-wishers, whose names may not be printed here, but are surely carried in my heart with gratitude for helping me "realize my dreams."

Dated The 7th May 2012

Place: Raja Rammohunpur

*Snehasish Saha
(Snehasish Saha)*