

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This research work was done at the Department of Political Science, University of North Bengal, Raja Rammohunpur, Darjeeling, under FIP scheme granted by the University Grants Commission. In completing this research work, I have benefitted from many sources. Without these sources of help and assistance my work would not have been completed. So, this work owes a great deal of the thoughts and efforts of many people. I would like to thank them all, heartily.

At the outset, I must express my deep sense of gratitude to my supervisor, Dr. Md. Yasin, Professor, Department of Political Science, University of North Bengal, for his patient, methodical and scholarly guidance in shaping my research imagination and seeing it through its conclusion and logical end. It was his keen interest in my work and sustained pressure, combined with love and affection that gave me rare incentive and momentum to carry on and complete this work.

I feel equally privileged to recall the genuine inspiration and elderly encouragement that I received from Mrs. Yasin, my senior Didi in the Department of Political Science, University of North Bengal.

I like to express my deep sense of gratitude to my co-supervisor, Dr. P. K. Sen Gupta, Professor, Department of Political Science and Ex-Dean of Arts, Commerce & Law, University of North Bengal, for his constant inspiration and encouragement for the completion of my study. It is his constructive criticism which has led to the completion of my study. Dr. Sen Gupta has always been a great source of inspiration to me, who has shown me the dream of doing research work and his love and affection have finally led me to give my study a final shape.

I would also like to record my indebtedness Dr. M. Chakraborty, Head, Department of Political Science, University of North Bengal, for his constant help and encouragement. He has always helped me in completing my work with his creative mind and constructive outlook even despite his very busy schedule as the Head of the Department. I would like to express my sense of gratitude to all of my teachers in the Department of Political Science, University of North Bengal, for their inspiration, encouragement, love and affection, they have shown to me for the completion of my work.

I wish to express my deep sense of gratitude to my revered teacher Dr. Pabitra Kumar Gupta, Ex-Principal, Tufanganj Mahavidyalaya, Tufanganj, Cooch Behar, and Ex-Member, the West Bengal College Service Commission, for his deep love, affection, valuable suggestions and able guidance not only to the completion of this study but also throughout my whole life. Without his proper guidance and care, it would not have been possible for me to reach to this stage in my life.

I would like to express my sense of deep regards to my respected teachers Prof. Manosij Mohan Sarkar and Prof. Asit Kumar Roy and Mr. Brajadulal Paul, Pulendra nath Adhikary, Dr. Dilip Kumar Dey and all other teaching and non-teaching staffs of Tufanganj Mahavidyalay for their love, affection, inspiration and constructive encouragement to me for the completion of this study.

I like to express my thankfulness to Dr. Srikumar Mukherjee and Dr. (Mrs) Swapna Mukherjee, for their constant help, assistance and encouragement for the completion of this study. I would like to thank the principal, teaching and non-

teaching staffs, the students of Raiganj College (University College) for their valuable suggestions and co-operation to me.

I take this opportunity to express my gratefulness to the University Grants Commission, (ERO), for sanctioning me leave for two years under FIP scheme for the completion of my study. At the same time, I would like to express my indebtedness to the honourable Vice-Chancellor, the Registrar, the Development Officer and other dignitaries of the University of North Bengal for providing me the opportunity to pursue this work under FIP scheme.

I am obliged to the Ex-Lecturer in-charge of my college Smt. Sudebi Paul, the President and the members of Governing Body of my college, for giving me release from the college to complete this work.

I am grateful to Prof. Sanatan Bhowal, my colleague and friend for helping me in the process of availing leave on FIP scheme from the UGC. I am grateful to Prof. (Ms.) Chhaya Bhattacharya, Ex-Lecturer in-charge of my college, Dr. Shanti Chhetri, existing Principal of my college, Prof. (Mrs.) U. Bajpaie, my colleague in the department and other departmental colleagues, Prof. Sekhar Chatterjee, Prof. Rupan Sarkar and other colleagues, teaching and non-teaching for their valuable suggestions, encouragement and inspiration to me for the completion of the work.

I am very much obliged to Mr. Balbir Ram, IAS, Divisional Commissioner, Jalpaiguri Division, Dr. Ravi Inder Singh, IAS, District Magistrate, Cooch Behar, Dr. S.S. Panda, IPS, Superintendent of Police, Cooch Behar, Mr. Ananta Roy, Sabhadhipati and Sri Anil Roy, Office Superintendent, Cooch Behar Zilla Parishad, the Project Director, DRDC Cooch Behar, the Manager, Backward Classes Welfare Office, Cooch Behar, SDO, Tufanganj Sub-Division, BDOs, Sadar Block Jalpaiguri, Tufanganj-I Block and Haldibari Block, Md. Abdur Razzaque Miah and Smt. Dipali Sarkar, Sabhapati and Sahakari Sabhapati, Tufanganj-I Panchayat Samiti, Smt. Gita Roy and Jalaluddin Sarkar, Sabhapati and Saha-Sabhapati Haldibari Panchayat Samiti, the Director, Centre for Women's Studies, University of North Bengal, Pardihsans, Upa-Pradhans and Staffs of all the 14 Gram Panchayats in Tufanganj-I Block and 6 Gram Panchayats of Haldibari Block, who have helped me by supplying various important Government documents and information relating to my research work and showed enormous patience during my visit to their respective offices.

I am also grateful to innumerable scholars and researchers whose path breaking observation- published and unpublished referred to in this study helped me understand and analyze my research problem. Without their significant contribution it would not have been possible to complete this work.

I extend my thanks to the Librarian and the staffs of the Central Library, the University of North Bengal, National Library Kolkata, District Library Jalpaiguri, State Library Cooch Behar, Azad Hind Pathagar Jalpaiguri, for making available the needed books, periodicals, journals and important materials with promptness and care.

I am grateful to the Director of the State-Institute of Panchayat and Rural Development (SIPRD), Dr. Alok Mukhopadhyaya and Librarian Mr. Dipak Kumar Seal for extending their helping hand always to me by providing valuable informations, documents and materials without any delay.

I am also grateful to Sriman Tanmoy Chakraborty, Librarian, Sri. Ranjit Bhattacharya, Senior Assistant and other staffs of my college Library for providing necessary books and journals relating to my research work in time.

I am obliged to Mr. S.K. Roy, Assistant Commissioner, Jalpaiguri Division, Sri Kshitish Chandra Sarkar Ex-A.T., Tufanganj N.N.M. High School and Sri Naren Das, Advocate Jalpaiguri Court for their valuable discussions and suggestions on the study.

I am thankful to Dr. Aziz Ahmed, Smt. Pranati Dakshi and Pradhan and staffs of Nakkatigach Gram Panchayat of Tufanganj-I Block for providing some important materials on the study.

I like to thank Dr. Debasis Dutta, Deputy Controller of Examinations, N.B.U. Mr. Hasan Omar Faruque, Advocate, Jalpaiguri Court, Amzad Hossain, Advocate, Tufanganj Court and Md. Najmul Alam S.I. of Police, W.B. for their constant inspiration and encouragement to me for completion of this work.

I acknowledge the help extended to me by accompanying me in the field survey by my friend Majibul Haque, my nephew Najrul Islam and various village dwellers of the survey area.

I like to acknowledge the help extended to me by my students Sriman Amar Roy, Bimal Roy, Utpal Sarkar; my brother-in-laws Md. Rezaul Karim, Jahangir Alam Sarkar and Abdul Kaiyum Sarkar; my friend Md. Abdul Baten Ali and Sri Subhash Chandra Sarkar and Sri Bishnu Mohan Bishwas of Nakkatigachh Gram Panchayat by collecting and providing relevant data for the completion of my study.

I must acknowledge affectionate Sriman Jyotirmoy Mandal and my son Riad Azam (Rose) for helping me in completing the entire printing work and also computerizing my field data. I like to thank Mr. Saswata Sarkar, my colleague, for preparation of some charts.

Mr. Kulen Das of M/S Bapi Xerox Centre, Jalpaiguri and his staffs helped me in photo copying of all the documents and study materials. I like to thank them. I also like to thank Mr. Subrata Ghosh of M/S Ghosh Printers and his staffs, Shivmandir Siliguri for binding the dissertation work.

The supportive love and care of my maternal grandparents, late father-in-law Matiar Rahaman, mother-in-law Hasna Bewa, oldest brother Md. Saokat Ali Ahmed, elder brother Rafiqul Islam are particularly responsible for successful pursuit of my endeavors. My warm regards to my maternal grandfather Late Sonaula Miah who remained a source of constant encouragement and help in all possible ways. My sincere thanks are due to all of my students, who have gladly accepted my absence in the Department for consecutive two years.

I am indebted to my wife Mrs. Momina Khatun (Mithu) for her constant support and inspiration for completing this work in time. She has always helped me all the way with her high imagination and best suggestions. It would not have been possible for me to complete this work without her constant support and inspiration. I am also indebted to my son Rose (Riad) and daughter little Taj (Tajkiratul) for their unflinching support and understanding during the field survey and writing of this dissertation. I could not give sufficient time to my sweet Taj in playing or gossiping with her. She has been able to understand her father's problem.

Above all, I am grateful to all the sample respondents, their family members and villagers of my survey area for receiving me in their midst with cordiality and

great warmth at the time of my field survey. It would not have been possible for me to complete this work without their sincere co-operation.

I like to express my thankfulness to Dr. Tarun Kr. Banerjee, Principal, Netaji Subhash Mahavidyalaya, Haldibari, Cooch Behar, Dr. Sudip Chakraborty, Reader in Economics, A. C. College, Jalpaiguri for their constant inspiration for completing this work. I am also indebted to Sri Debendra Nath Barma, Md. Taleb Ali, Md. Tajibuddin Sarkar, Bulbul Alam, Md. Mahijur Rahaman, and Shahjamal Islam for their constant encourage and inspiration for completing this work in time.

I like to thank all my friends, well-wishers and common people who helped me directly or indirectly in the completion of this work.

Last, but not the least, I like to put on record my heart felt gratitude to my brothers, sisters, in-laws and other family members for their constant support, inspiration, particularly my father Late Ismail Hossain and my mother Late Sakina Bibi, who had always been a great source of inspiration for me, but who are no more to see the completion of my work in its present form.

Department of Political Science,
University of North Bengal,
Raja Rammohunpur, Darjeeling.
May, 31, 2006.

Md. Abdur Razzaque
(MD. ABDUR RAZZAQUE.)

Forwarded
Somitra *LS*
31/5/06

Professor & Head
Department of Political Science
University of North Bengal

H. Das
31.05.06

Professor.
Department of Political Science
University of North Bengal.