

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am glad to express my sincere gratitude to the Director General and the Governing Body of the Indian Council for Medical Research for awarding me a fellowship without which this work would not have been possible. I am also thankful to the North Bengal University authorities and the Department of Sociology & Social Anthropology for the facilities provided towards this work.

I am deeply indebted to Prof. R.K. Bhadra, Department of Sociology & Social Anthropology, North Bengal University under whose supervision and due to whose moral support this work materialised.

I cannot refrain myself from thanking Dr. (Mrs.) M. Bhadra and Dr. S.R. Mondal of the same department for providing me valuable suggestions for the work.

I am also thankful to Miss. Sima Sarkar who had been a J.R.F. of the Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology, North Bengal University for helping me in my field work.

I am thankful to the proprietors, managers, managements, the workers of the three tea estates of Hansqua, Taipoo and Matigara for their valuable suggestions and active cooperation.

I am specially thankful to Mr. Rajesh Kerketta for providing me accommodation in the Hansqua tea plantation.

I am highly thankful to Mr. M. Chakravorty who has done the typographical work for this dissertation.

I am thankful to the Research Scholars of the different Departments of this University for providing help in various forms towards this work.

(SHUBHAMANYU CHAKRAVARTY)