

Acknowledgement

With immense pleasure and deep happiness, I extend my sincere gratitude to Prof. Soumitra De for being my mentor, guide and supervisor. This work would not have been possible without his unparalleled support and guidance. Similarly, my beloved wife, Mrs. Vivechana Dewan for assisting me throughout my journey. I also extend my heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Dick Dewan and Dr. Kishore Kumar Thapa and Dr. Bappa Sarkar for their genuine help and kind support. Accordingly, the librarian of Dinhata College, Smt Dawa Doma Sherpa for being so generous and helpful always at the time of need.

I also extend my indebtedness to all the respondents of Tongsong and Pussimbang Tea Estates of Darjeeling Hills and the Parippu village of Kottayam District. I am indeed grateful to all the Medical Officers, ANMs, Nurses, Health Activists, Patients, Politicians and Academicians for their support and cooperation. Lastly, I am deeply indebted to all the Jhankris and Vaidhyas for sharing their experiences to make this thesis possible.

Last but not the least, I am also grateful to the Head, Department of Political Science, N.B.U and the Teacher-In-Charge of Dinhata College for their cooperation and support.

(Sapan Tamang)