ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It is a great honour for me to express my sincere and deep gratitude towards my supervisor Professor Biswajit Chatterjee of Economics Department of Jadavpur University. His encouragement, support and valuable advice helped me throughout my work. I am grateful to him for his valuable suggestions he gave throughout the period of my study. The continuous support I got from him during my work period encouraged me immensely in completing my work with enthusiasm.

I am grateful to all my teachers of Economics Department, Jadavpur University. My gratitude to Prof. Arpita Dhar, Prof. Rajat Acharyya and Prof. Ajitava Roy Chowdhury for their useful suggestion during the course of my work.

I would like to offer my special thanks to Dr. Rajarshi Majumdar of University of Burdwan for his immense help in dealing with the unit level data of NSS along with his valuable guidance. My sincere gratitude to Professor K. Sundaram and Prof. N.R. Bhanumurthy for their sincere advice which helped me in improving my work. I am grateful to Prof. Dipankar Coondoo and Prof. Soumen Sikdar for their valuable suggestions. My heartiest thanks to my friend Professor Jibonayan Basu Roychoudhury of University of East Anglia (U.K.) for his help and encouragement.

The financial support I received from UGC scheme of Faculty Development Programme (FDP) during my research period is gratefully acknowledged.

I am thankful to the officials and staffs of Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), National Sample Survey Organisation (Delhi and Kolkata), Centre for Studies in Social Sciences (CSSS), Institute of local governance and urban studies (ILGUS), State Urban Development Agency (SUDA), Bureau of Applied Economics and Statistics and National Library for their cooperation and help in gathering different data and resources that have been useful in my study. I am thankful to the officials and staffs of the Economics Department and the Ph.D Section, Jadavpur University for their cooperation and help.

My heartiest thanks to my colleagues and staffs of Balurghat College, specially Prof. Bhaswati Mookhopadhyay, Prof. Aditi Dasgupta and Prof. Ripon Sarkar for their support in making my dream come true. My sincere gratitude to Prof. Shakti Patra of Teachers’ Training College, Malda for his cooperation and help.

Finally nothing could have been achieved without the support of my mother and my mother in law for walking along with me whenever I needed them.

My heartiest thanks to my son Mishuk for bearing with his mammum’s do’s and don’t’s on him and giving me enough space to concentrate.

Thanks to Jhilam for all his support.