Acknowledgement

This research work would not have been successful without the active help and support I received from quarters and individuals. Firstly, I wish to extend my sincere and profound gratitude to my supervisor Professor Buddadeb Chaudhuri for his endearing and eternal guidance during this work. It would not have been possible for me to complete this work without his continued encouragement and valuable suggestions.

Next, I am very grateful to Calcutta University for providing financial assistance in the form of Departmental Fellowship through the Department of anthropology.

I am deeply indebted to Tribal Research and Training Centre (TRTC) for providing me fooing and lodging, transportation and a good library facility. I would also like to extend my deepest and sincere regards to Father P.M.Tony and other members of TRTC for providing me continuous help during my fieldwork. I would also extend my gratitude to Professor Dr. Aruna Shrivastava, Head, Department of Anthropology, Tata College Chaibasa for her kind support during my fieldwork.

I am deeply indebted to villagers of Rangamati, Petapeti, Guira and Dumbisai who extended their cordial help to carryout my fieldwork in this region. I would also like to give thanks to Sadhu Charan Sundi, Siddheswar Kayam, Sadho Kayam, Sanatan Sundi, Diku Sewaiyan, Benjamin Sundi, Mollika Sundi and Chandra Bhusan Deogam for their kind assistance to carrying out the fieldwork. Their support in this effort is greatly appreciated.

I would also like to give special thanks to Dr. Mrs. Sumita Chaudhuri, Mr. Sovan Chakraborty, Mr. Ranjit Karmakar and Mr. Santanu Adhikari for their whole hearted support in carrying out the work.

Finally, I would like to thank my parents for their never ending support and encouragement in carrying out the work.

ABHIJIT GHOSAL