Breast Cancer had earned sufficient notoriety in West Bengal during the later part of the 20th Century, when I was just thinking of accepting my career as a professional clinical psychologist. I was impressed by few of my friends and the few teachers to study the mentality of local Breast Cancer Patients whose segregated life had generated then a belief that due to a peculiar mental disposition the disease used to grow and spread rapidly — leading the patient towards death. When I accepted this assignment, I found the presence of high community prejudice to avoid the company of a breast cancer patient (a cursed lady), highly prejudiced mind of the patients regarding their own social worthlessness and their subconscious effort to aggravate their own ego-defence to generate "illness behaviour" while a low whispering about their effective treatment, social rehabilitation, economic self-sufficiency, and total welfare.*

The gloomy picture I still remember is: the patients' typical reactions to the experience of being sick. It displays the unworthy role that a community describes to a chronic sick people — by excluding her from usual role-responsibility, by ignoring her need for enjoying professional care and funds to meet treatment cost and usual maintenance cost. I observed a poor interpersonal relations with the patients and their family due to their prejudiced mind about the said "curse of god", which may be perpetuated to next generations and may earn social stigma.

*In my family circle, I had to socially interact with two of my relatives, when I failed to play any useful role to improve their psycho-immunity level for fighting against the 'killer cells'.
I remember how much encouragement I received from the Faculties and Researchers of NIMHANS, Bangalore, when I approached them with my outline plan of present study for fund. However, my Plan was approved and I got Fellowship to work as a Research Fellow at the Department of Applied Psychology, Calcutta University. And, for such opportunity I remain ever grateful to my Research Guide Prof. Dr. Dipes Chandra Nath and to my reverred teacher Prof. Dr. N.K. Bhattacharyya.

To complete my research work, during these years under different circumstances I had to consult certain technical matters from Faculties of Department of Psychology and Applied Psychology on different occasions. In this regard I must express my gratitude to Prof. Sukumar Bose, Prof. A. K. Chatterjee, Dr. Jayanti Basu, Dr. (Mrs.) Indrani Mukherjee and Dr. Saugata Basu.

I still remember the very hearty cooperation of the patients and their families in revealing their minds very freely at different treatment centres. I must record my gratitude to them with the frank admission that without their cooperation much of the mysteries would have remained unveiled.

In this context I have to acknowledge very kind cooperation from the authorities of different treatment centres and hospitals who very kindly permitted me to interact with the patients very freely for the purpose of study.

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As I mentioned the conclusion here also I must admit that this first venture with Bengalee breast cancer patients may reveal certain lacks which need rectification for future research. Without any tall claim, may I request my learned examiners to point out all those for the perfection of this study, in future.

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