ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

I am grateful to a large number of people who have either directly or indirectly contributed towards completion of the research study.

Firstly, I am grateful to Dr. R. Bandyopadhyay, Director, CASAD and my co-guide for initiating me in research and for the problem identification. The credit for the majority of the contributions are due to his help and guidance.

The present thesis emerged out of research activities that I am involved in for the past 20 years. It was a pleasure to have come into contact with so many research scholars, academicians and administrators throughout the period of my research career and I am thankful to all of them.

Specifically, I would like to thank Professor Dilip Roy, Department of Business Administration, University of Burdwan and my co-guide for his support, guidance and encouragements throughout the period of the study.

I am also grateful to Professor P. Chattopadhyay and Professor J. Bhattacharya of the Department of Business Administration, University of Burdwan for their help and suggestions. Many other faculty members and staff of the Department of Business Administration, University of Burdwan have also helped by giving suggestions during the seminars and I am thankful to all of them.
A large number of Government officials from the Bankura and Purulia districts and the State of West Bengal have provided help and co-operation whenever approached. The names are too many to be individually mentioned. However, I would like to specifically thank Shri. Mainak Bose, Secretary, Planning & Development, Govt. of West Bengal; Ms. R. Venkataraman, District Magistrate, Bankura; Shri. Malay K. Dey, District Magistrate, Purulia; Shri. Swapan Banerjee, Ex-Sabhadhipati, Purulia Zilla Parishad; Shri. Ranjit Maiti, Ex-District Planning Officer, Bankura for their help and co-operation.

For library help I had the opportunity to use the National Institute of Bank Management (NIBM) library. I thank the Librarian and all the staff of NIBM for their help. The other libraries used were that of the Centre for Applied Systems Analysis in Development (CASAD) and the British Council Library: I am thankful to them.

In CASAD, I received help and co-operation from all colleagues and staff members and grateful to all of them. Specifically, I would like to thank Professor A. S Roy; Professor S. Ghotge; Professor D. K. Bhattacharyya and all other staff at CASAD for their help, encouragements and support. For providing help in typing, Ms. Smita Poddar and Ms. Sangeeta Sawant deserves special thanks.
For data collection I had received excellent co-operation from the village youth of Teghari and thankful to all of them. For data collection and entry I must thank Shri. Arabinda Maity and Shri. Subrata Bhattacharya of CASAD for their help and support.

The programming help was provided by Shri. Umesh Patil, Shri Yogesh Nagulpelli and Ms. Jyoti Dhodhapkar of CASAD and I am thankful to each one of them.

During the past couple of years I had the opportunity to travel extensively and attend a few international as well as national conferences. In those conferences I met a number of stalwarts who have provided a few suggestions and boosted my morale. For a number of relevant suggestions and comments I would like to particularly thank the following persons:

Dr. Jonathan Rosenhead, London School of Economics, UK.
Dr. J. P. Brans, Vrije Universitat, Brussels, Belgium.
Dr. Tawfik Jelassi, INSEAD, France.
Dr. Peter C. Bell, University of Western Ontario, Canada.
Dr. Rolfe Tomlinson, University of Warwick, UK.
Dr. D. B. Papoulias, University of Athens, Greece.
Dr. Arjan Sahani, Southampton University, UK.
Dr. Peter Bennett, University of Strathclyde, UK.
Dr. A. Ghosal, CSIR, New Delhi.
Dr. A. Rodrigues, University of Portugal, Portugal.
Some of the research findings are published in reputed National and International Journals. The comments and suggestions received from the distinguished referees and editors have improved the quality of the presentations. In this regard, I would like to express my thanks to all the anonymous referees and the Editors of the following Journals:

Journal of the Operational Research Society.
International Transactions in Operational Research.
Social Science and Medicine.
Computers and Operations Research.
OMEGA.
SCIMA.

Finally, I thank all the friends and relatives who have supported me at the times when it was needed most.

However, I am solely responsible for any errors or omissions in the thesis.

Subhash Datta