ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

While the writing of this thesis has involved the collective efforts of many people, its successful completion wouldn’t have been possible without the assistance and advice of a large number of other people. I extend my heartfelt thanks and sincere gratitude to the people who encouraged and assisted me in various ways in accomplishing this endeavour, a great challenge indeed.

At the outset, I owe my indebtedness to my Supervisor Prof. Aswini K. Ray, Centre for Political Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, for his able and inspiring guidance to give the shape what it is today. Prof. Ray’s gentle, kindly disposition and diligence in academic matters, incessant encouragement, however, has made the course of writing this thesis a very pleasurable task. I’m very much thankful for his persistent counsel, the cooperation and care he bestowed on my work. I am also thankful to Prof. Gurpreet Mahajan, my Co-Supervisor, for her cooperation in completing my work.

I am particularly grateful to Prof. Sudha Pai, who did much to help me view the thesis as a whole and for her valuable suggestions and encouragement. I am also thankful to the CPS Staff for their cooperation at every stage.

I extend my gratitude to the Library Staff of Jawaharlal Nehru University, Indian Institute of Public Administration, National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration, National Council of Educational Research and Training, National Institute of Health and Family Welfare, Voluntary Health Association of India, Central Secretariat Library, Indian Social Institute and Orissa State Libraries for their valuable help in accessing the material.

My special thanks go to the staff of ITDA, Statistical Office, District Planning Board, Gajapati. I thank all the state officials for helping me in collecting information. Nonetheless, I do acknowledge the cooperation and
no-hesitation that, my respondents extended during my fieldwork despite their busy life.

My thanks are also due to the host of friends who were always there with me during my thick and thin. The loving encouragement and constructive comments of my friend Rati, has really helped me in completing this great task, so my special thanks are due to him.

Finally, I take the opportunity to convey my heartfelt gratitude to my parents and family members for being the constant source of motivation and help in pursuing my duty.

Last but not the least, only I am responsible for any errors or weaknesses the thesis may have.

[Signature]

(SIGNATURE OF THE CANDIDATE)