Acknowledgements

I would like to express my deep appreciation and gratitude to all those who have contributed to the process of this Ph.D thesis. It could have been an impossible task without the co-operation of number of people.

First of all, it is the great reverence for me to work with Dr. Manik Chakrabarty, my teacher and supervisor, whom I am highly indebted for suggesting me this area of work; he gave patient hearing of my incipient and some what confused thoughts many a times and provides them a direction. Though I had moments of despair when I was asked to revise my drafts by my supervisor and my draft was subjected to seemingly unending process of change that incorporates suggestion and carryout correction by him. I realized the wisdom of the entire course of hard work which he made me go through when I completed the thesis.

Further I express my heartfelt thanks to Dr. S.I. Singh, professor in Department of Law, Burdman University for valuable guidance he gave me in preparing this thesis. I record my sincere thanks to the authorities of Burdman University for an opportunity they gave me to register as researcher and submit my thesis for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Law.
I am extremely obliged to Mr. Shreya Matilal, Director, of Haldia Law College, who helped and encouraged me in every possible way.

I am grateful to all my teachers who have contributed to the shaping of the work directly or otherwise. I have consulted the works of many learned authors and all of them listed in the bibliography. I express my immense debt of gratitude to all of them. My sincere thanks to NEW (New Delhi), NHRC (New Delhi), UNIFEM (New Delhi), Indian Council for Child Welfare, Department of Women and Children, New Delhi, CWDS New Delhi, DWCD New Delhi, JNU Library, Indian Law Institute, International Law Institute, Delhi University Library, Haldia Law College Library for the co-operation in making available to me the reports, books and other materials on the subjects.

I would like to thanks all those who helped to produce this thesis and the energetic support they gave me in many ways they have. I would like to especially thank the following individual for the advice, encouragement and contributions: Durga Prasad Shaw, Kancheh Mala Shaw, Siya Ram Jaiswal, Nisha, Sharda, Hemant Bhattu, Rakesh, Abhishek, Bansi, Mr. Tabrez Ahmad, Mr. Shamim Firdous Suman bhabi, Paresk and Abhilash.
I would like to express my debt of gratitude to my parents who has always been the source of inspiration and providing me everything in my life.

Last but not the least I would like to thank my husband Mr. Pankaj Kumar for the care, concern and interest he has taken in supporting me at every stage of my work. He gave me constant encouragement in work and helped me with valuable suggestions.

Burdwan
4th October, 2005.

Sadhna Gupta