ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This gives me immense pleasure and opportunity to express my profound indebtedness to my guide Prof. Haribandhu Mohapatra, M.D., D.P.H. retired Professor and Head, Department of Social and Preventive Medicine, S.C.B. Medical College, Cuttack for all the valuable advice, inspiration, meticulous attention, suggestions and scholastic guidance throughout the work.

I wish to place on record my profound gratitude to Dr. (Mrs.) Snehelata Nanda, Asst. Prof., Department of Food and Nutrition, College of Home Science, Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology, Bhubaneswar for her unfathomable inspiration, encouragement and most generous help which made it possible for me to complete the work.

Vocabulary is limit to express adequately my sense of inner feelings towards my brother Pradyumna and Gyana for their constant inspirations, encouragement and generous help for data collection to give this research a final shape. Without their help, this work would not have been completed.

My sincere thanks to Dr. G.K.Parida, Associate Professor and Dr. Kausik Mishra, Lecturer, S.P.M. Department, S.C.B. Medical College, Cuttack for their generous help at the time of need.

I am also thankful to Mr. P.C.Rout (Retd.), Mr. N. Tarai, Mr. N. Mallick and other staff members of S.P.M. Department for which I shall remain ever grateful to them.

I am thankful to the mothers of Biridi block area who shared their immense co-operation with me during my research work.

I can not forget the co-operation of anganwadi workers, Puspa, Sanjukta, Sikha Aunty, Kanti Aunty, Kali Aunty, Urmilla, Sabita etc., and other I.C.D.S. staff members during collection of data for which I shall remain grateful to them.
I am extremely grateful to Dr. Hariprasad Patnaik, Sr. Scientist, Department of Entomology, O.U.A.T. for checking of entire thesis and valuable advise during my work.

I am thankful to Dr. Durga Charan Pradhan, Asst. Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics, OUAT for helping me in statistical work during the course of this investigation.

I am specially thankful to my loving husband Devraj for his keen interest, encouragement, inspiration, affection and unhesitant co-operation throughout the work. I heartly acknowledge the support and sacrifice of my daughter Devidutta during the course of my study.

My respectfulness and inner feelings towards my parents and my in-laws family members are due for their interest and affection to make this work successful. I am thankful to my uncle Dr. Santanu for collecting relevant literature from S.C.B. Medical College library.

My utmost regards to my uncle Purna Chandra for his inspiration and suggestions extended in the completion of this study.

I am thankful to my sister Jyoti who has inspired me in the progress of the work.

Last but not least my sincere thanks goes to Mr. Artatrana Kar for typing out the manuscript taking meticulous care.

(Diptimayee Jena) 16.09.02

(Diptimayee Jena)