ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

There is no word in my vocabulary, which can satisfactorily express my gratitude and indebtedness to my esteemed teacher and research supervisor, Dr. Sanat Kumar Guchhait, who has been a constant source of inspiration, information and philosophical as well as technical guidance. I deeply acknowledge his valuable guidance, innovative ideas, over all supervision in completing this thesis.

I express my gratitude to all the teachers of Department of geography, The university of Burdwan, especially Prof. Nageswar Prasad and the staff who have inspired and helped me throughout the period of my presence in the department of Geography as a full-time as well as part-time research scholar.

I owe a deep sense of gratitude to Prof. Sunil Kumar Munsi, Prof. Arun Kumar Singh, Prof. Malay Mukhopadhay, Prof. Ananda Mohon Kar, for their valuables suggestions and explanation in analyzing some important aspects of this work.

I offer my heartfelt thanks to Asit Kumar Sarkar, Avijit Das and Gobindo Mandal, Biswajit Mandal, local residents of study area for their valuable cooperation during the collection of field data. Without their assistance it would be hard for me to run the investigation smoothly. I also grateful to Late Badal Chandar Guchhait, Biy Kumar Guchhait, Panthodip Bandyopadhay, Sandipan Ghosh, Deboabrata Seth, Rajib Sarkar and Tapas Dolui for their nice cooperation while conducting the field survey. It would be mistake until and unless if I do not consider the name of Subhankar Bera, Pradip Kumar Paul, Arijit Majumder, Subhasis Bhattacharjee, Ankur Konar, Surajit Kumar Ghosh, Pallab Purkait, Malay Ganguli, Probodh Kumar Mandal, Anupam
Kar, Kunal Chakroborty, Santanu Dutta, Sujay Bandyopadhy for their inspiration, assistance and help during the progress of this work.

I convey my sincere thanks to the UGC for sponsoring the research for the first two years of registration. I express deep sense of gratitude and thanks to all the members of the different organizations related to my work for their help to access data, report, maps etc. as well as respondents and persons who helped a lot by generously giving information during intensive field study without which this work would not have been so enriched. I also like to appreciate my colleagues of Makar College for their constant help, support and inspiration that has encouraged me to accomplish this work.

Lastly, it would be a great mistake if I do not mention of my beloved parents, sister, brother-in-law, uncles and aunts. They have always inspired and supported me without whom I could not have under taken this long journey.

Dated: 23/05/2013
Place: Burdwan

Abhik Dasgupta
Research Scholar
The University of Burdwan