

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It is my solemn duty to acknowledge my debt of gratitude to all those who have helped me in completing the present study.

At the outset I owe a primary debt of gratitude to **Dr. Santosh Kumar Kar**, Chairperson in the Centre for Biotechnology, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India, who was my guide for this study. He gave me the benefit of his scholarship, and his profound understanding of the subject along with his long professional experience. It was a memorable experience to work under his supervision.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to my colleagues and friends, inside and outside the Centre for Biotechnology, Jawaharlal Nehru University for their continued interest in this study. I am especially indebted in this regard to Dr. Sarat Kumar Dalai, Dr. Dasarathi Das for their co-operation in completing my research work.

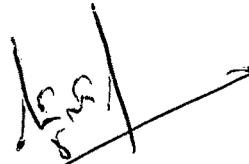
I also express my sense of gratitude to Ramesh, Sailendri and Bhagylaxmi for their help during the field trips. I would like to thank all those who have helped me in collecting data and materials from the field for the study. My special thanks to Dr. Anil Biswal, Dr N. C. Mallick, Mr. Rakesh Raguvansi for their keen interest and words of encouragement during the progress of this work.

I wish to thank Mr. Bhagwan Das Goyal, who worked to bring the thesis to its type format on DTP.

Finally, I wish to place on record the encouragement of the members of my family who have stood by me all along during this work as the vibrant source of inspiration and encouragement. The blessings of my parents, elders and my elder brother's and younger sister's intellectual contributions which have gone all along with this work, was the motivating force in completing this study.

New Delhi:

Date:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RKM', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Rajendra Kumar Mishra