

PREFACE

The present topic of research was approved by the Committee for Advanced Studies & Research, School of Social Sciences, JNU, w.e.f. 26.8.1983 for the award of doctoral degree. Initially, an exploratory study was contemplated. All theories and frameworks were given up. Emphasis was laid on the collection of empirical facts. Once much of information seeking and its classification was over, the framework and generalisations spontaneously surfaced.

What I expected out of the study in the beginning was nothing more than an opaque empirical work. I never expected that my exploration into a somewhat obscure but important subject matter of research will lead me to a new area of research in Sociology which has been tentatively termed as "Sociology of Resettlement". I have been lucky to have timely reflexes which have allowed me to come on to certain clear-cut propositions in the study.

A 'resettlement study', as it has been indicated in the present work, has multi-disciplinary dimensions. Admittedly therefore, the study has only a limited exposition on the subject matter. Even so, if the study has prepared a ground for further multi-disciplinary research on the present subject matter and area of research, the purpose of our modest attempt is well served.

I was specially disposed to have Professor T.K. Oommen as my supervisor. Throughout I have been inspired by him to produce some relevant qualitative work. He has exorcised me of several academic and personal limitations. To me he is much more than just a supervisor. He is my acharya in its literal connotations. I am indeed proud to be his student.

Incidentally, for several reasons my stay at Mahanadi has been academically most fruitful. The southward portion of Mahanadi building is kept as University guest house of JNU, manifestly to house its guests. The structural arrangements of Mahanadi provided me with rare opportunities to have long deliberations with some of the stalwarts of Indian Sociology. Prof. Y.B. Damle was kindly disposed towards me. There was hardly an occasion during my tenure at Mahanadi that he visited the place and did not grace us with his presence. On every visit he would ask about the progress of my work and would reflect on the progress already made. He also went through the draft of my first chapter and gave valuable suggestions on it.

Similarly, Prof. B.R. Chauhan was Visiting Professor at our Centre for one year. He mostly stayed at Mahanadi during the period. Like Professor Damle, Professor Chauhan was also very kind towards me. It was the inspiring suggestion of Prof. Chauhan to find in Bihar an analogous equivalent of

folk-literature of Haryana that drew me towards probing the work of Bhikhari Thakur and others. I am indeed grateful to both Prof. Y.B. Damle and Prof. B.R. Chauhan for their academic guardianship. Mahanadi has indeed been an incidental factor... but for their magnanimity I would not have benefitted myself so much!

I am also grateful to Prof. Namwar Singh, for his reflexion on my interpretations of Bhikhari Thakur's work and for also lending me a book on the subject from his personal library.

During my tenure as a Ph.D. student, we lived frugally as fellowship provided by the University Grants Commission remained the only source of regular income. When my petition for the grant of extension of fellowship for the fifth year had already gathered enough dust, I was served with a notice in July 1988 to immediately vacate my University accommodation at Mahanadi. The traumatic blow came unexpectedly, particularly at the time when I was finishing my draft thesis. At this crucial juncture, two recommendatory letters were written by Prof. R.K. Jain, Chairman of my Centre - One for the extension of fellowship and other for the grant of my stay at Mahanadi till the task was finished. The letters, which are testimony of professional sensitivity of Prof. Jain, bore fruits, and something which seemed quite impossible at one point of time, is now accomplished. I have a copy of the two letters with me which I intend to preserve for lifetime

as a memento of his kindness towards me. I am grateful for his generous moral support and sympathetic disposition which has gone long way in mitigating my anxiety and tensions in a critical phase of my life.

I wish to express my gratitude to all my respondents/ informants, without their active and generous cooperation the task would have never been accomplished. Mr. Vinay Shankar Prasad, Lecturer, C.M. College, Darbhanga and UGC Teacher-fellow at School of International Studies, JNU, and Mrs. Deepa Kishore, Senior Research Fellow, CSRD, JNU, partially saw the proof of the draft and final thesis respectively. I express my most sincere thanks to them for sparing their valuable time for the work. And finally, Mr. Om Prakash deserves great commendations for his prompt and accurate typing.

Satyendra Kishore
(SATYENDRA KISHORE)