

P R E F A C E

Following a grant of Teachers' Fellowship by the U.G.C. the present research work was undertaken few years back. Since my babyhood I have been living in the Uttarpara Industrial area. My home is nearby the area where the brick fields are located. Because of the close proximity of my residence to the brick field area I developed curiosity about the industry and the people associated with it. I saw every year upcountry people come and stay for a period of time and leave. I also noticed their customs different from ours. I also observed that the brick fields are busy and frequented by people for a part of the year and desolate for the remaining part. The initial curiosity, as I grow older, was gradually transformed into a passion. As soon as the opportunity came, I decided to study local brick industry. My decision was not simply prompted by my passion but also by the fact that the academicians' lack of interest in studying it.

With all earnestness I started the investigation of the industry. After the collection of information unfortunately I became physically crippled to sustain the efforts. I had to resign to the force of the situation and the work was left for a long period. Despite physical incapacity I decided to complete the work and the work presented here is the outcome of the decision.

I am grateful to Prof. Anil Kr. Sarkar, Department of Business Management, University of Calcutta, for his constant encouragement during my years' of illness and for his able guidance and supervision for the completion of the present work. I am sure without his assistance the present work would not have seen the light of the day. I am also thankful to Prof. Kamal Ghose of the same department for his wise counsel and constant encouragement.

It is hoped and believed the present work will expand our knowledge about the real condition of the brick industry. The work is being submitted for the Ph.D. Degree of the University of Calcutta.

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