ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to take this opportunity to convey my deep sense of gratitude to my esteemed supervisor Prof. S. C. Mukhopadhyay, Ph.D., D.Sc. (Cal), Ex-Head of the Department of Geography, Calcutta University. Honestly it is only with his constant guidance and endeavour, I got the encouragement in designing the present research schedule and in giving its final shape.

I am indebted to Late Prof. A. K. Saha of Centre For Study of Man and Environment for his inspiration and advice on this project. I sincerely acknowledge the help rendered by all the Government Officials of National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning (NBSS and LUP), Geological Survey of India (G.S.I.), Eastern Coalfields Limited (E.C.L.), Central Ground Water Board (C.G.W.B.), Asansol Durgapur Development Authority (A.D.D.A.), State Water Investigation Department (S.W.I.D.), West Bengal Pollution Control Board (W.B.P.C.B.), Central Mining Planning and Designing Institute Limited (C.M.P.D.I.L.) for supplying various information, data and for giving positive response to all of my queries.

I have gathered valuable suggestion from Prof. M. K. Bandopadhyay (Department of Geography, Calcutta University), Dr. Aruna Goswami (National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning), Prof. A. K. Saha (Department of Geology, Presidency College, Calcutta), Prof Kashi Nath Mukherjee (Director, Research Cell of Sri Chaitanya Research Institute).

Special thanks should be given to Dr. A. Jayram, Head of Regional Remote Sensing Service Centre, ISRO, Kharagpur and Mr. Y. K. Srivastava, Scientist of the same institute, for supplying me the False Colour Composite of my study area.

I am greatly indebted to my husband Mr. Manas Ghosh who has helped me in all steps of the progress of the present work.

Above all I will always remain indebted to my loving, encouraging and affectionate parents. Although both of them have left for their heavenly abode amidst the research work period, kept on blessing me from above making it possible to finally complete the work they so much wished me to do. To conduct the field work covering the entire region and its outskirts would have been impossible to complete without the company of my father all along the survey work.

I express my heartiest thanks to my sister Sunanda (Zina), brother Soumen (Appu) and daughter Samriddha (Mum) who were the constant source of inspiration throughout my work.

I am also greatful to Mr. Tuhin Roy who has helped me out in doing all the statistical analysis of my thesis.

I also owe thanks to Mr. Asitava Ganguly and Mr. Sudip Chakraborty for their excellent performance in typing out this thesis with sleek efficiency. Subsequently this has been typeset at Syscom Computer Academy by Mr. Sudip Chakraborty.

Space does not permit to thank all individually for having rendered me all required and possible help in the materialization and completion of this work.

Last but not the least I am highly obliged to Dr. (Mrs.) Jayati Hazra, Head of the Department of Geography, the University of Calcutta who provided me all the facilities available in the Department and for forwarding the thesis for examination and evaluation.

I would like to thank all these persons, including the people of Ajay Damodar Interfluve, for their generosity.